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Summary of the January 1955 Monthly Narrative Report
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

		Page
WEATHER CONDITIONS:	Rainfall below normal.	1
PLANS, MAPS AND SURVEYS:	Broad-Shark River area reconnaissance was by Park Engineer. Survey made by Bureau of Land Management for Paradise Prairie case. B.P.R. ran P-lines from stations around Flamingo area.	1
GENERAL PUBLICITY:	Magazine Trucking carried article on Everglades National Park and N.Y. Herald Tribune carried series of articles on the Park.	2
MAINTENANCE:	Important miscellaneous maintenance was done.	2
CONSTRUCTION:	Financing worked out for contract 14-10-111-43 and contract 14-10-111-41 coming to completion soon.	2
APPROACHES TO PARK AREA:	Superintendent met with Florida City Council to discuss condition of State Road 27.	2
CONCESSIONERS:	National Parks Concessions, Inc., in last season of operation in this Park. Everglades Transway Service began trips to Cuthbert Lake Rookery. Permanent Park concessioner expected to be chosen soon.	3
TRAVEL:	More visitrs than last year in Miami as well as in Park.	4
VISITORS:		4
RANGER SERVICE:	Visitation to Royal Palm increasing steadily. Four U. of M ami students reported lost but found unhurt.	5
LAW ENFORCEMENT:	Sentence passed on four local men convicted of hunting in Park last month. Three cases were fined a total of $70 before U. S. Commissioner.	5

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		Page
FIRE CONTROL:	Four fires occurred during the month, 3 statistical and one non-statistical.	5
ACCIDENTS:	Two non-collission automobile accidents.	6
PUBLIC HEALTH:	Flamingo picnic area water was cut off to public until contamination was corrected.	6
OIL EXPLORATION:	Gulf Oil Company drilled another "dry hole" on Park land.	6

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
JANUARY 1955

Weather Conditions: Generally speaking, ground water levels in the Park were slightly higher than normal for January according to the U. S. Geological Survey, but it seemed that inundated areas of the Park were less than January a year ago. Rainfall in the Park was believed to be below normal which, with high winds, increased fire hazard. Temperatures continued cool, producing one of south Florida's coldest winters.

Readings from stations were as follows:

	Max Temp	Mean Max	Min Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	82°	77.1°	36°	50.3°	.22"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	82°	76.2°	41°	----*	.82"
Tamiami Ranger Station	84°	77.6°	39°	53.7°	.84"
Tavernier Ranger Station	81°	75.5°	48°	60.5°	.46"

Plans, Maps and Surveys: The Park Engineer led a party to the Broad-Shark River area where a reconnaissance was made for the future canal connecting these two rivers. As a result of this study, it was possible to submit a more exact P.C.P. for the project. The U. S. Marine Corps Air Station had carefully airmapped the area before the study was made on the ground.

Messrs. Shearer and Larkin of the Bureau of Land Management re-ran Government survey to the south line of T. 58, R. 35. This was in connection with study being made relative to the contested case of United States v. Paradise Prairie and Dorothy Dewhurst Parker.

Mr. Cates of the Bureau of Public Roads ran P-lines from Station 1237 + 00 to 1700 + 00, close traverses around dykes at Flamingo area, and levels from Station 1237 + 00 to 1700 + 00. Cross sections were taken at several stations. At the B.P.R. office in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, P-lines and locations were projected and cross sections completed on a great deal of the proposed road alignment.

* Thermometer out of order for 10 days.

General Publicity: The magazine Trucking put out by the Great Southern Trucking Company carried an article entitled "Pahayokee" concerning a visit to Everglades National Park. This was in their February edition.

The New York Herald Tribune completed a series of articles by John O'Reilly on Everglades National Park.

Maintenance: Highway maintenance including blading the road from Long Pine Key to Flamingo Bridge except for private lands, and then from the bridge to Slagle's Ditch. The ranger station, bunkhouse, and shop at Coot Bay were repainted and the docks at Coot Bay were repaired. Two hundred cubic yards of fill material was hauled to house this ditch, stockpile on site for canal closure later in the year.

Work was started on the boatload at Coot Bay. It was found that the cable sheave blocks were badly rusted and new ones will be fabricated in the shop. Submerged vegetation was cleared from the Royal Palm Pond in an effort to prevent the mass death of fish later in the season due to suffocation caused by decaying organic matter.

Construction: Dredging and Filling Contract 14-10-111-41: It is estimated that the contractor has completed 184,696 cubic yards of dredging and 9 acres of clearing and grubbing as of January 11. Also estimated was 90% of clearing and incidental work to maintain traffic and refill canal at existing road near Flamingo Bridge. This contract will be completed in February.

Bulkheading Contract 14-10-111-43: Financing was worked out for this contract and it was signed by the Superintendent as of January 21, the amount being $169,838.39. The contract was then sent to the Director for approval.

Approaches to Park Area: The Superintendent met with a Council at the City Council of Florida City to discuss with them a coordinated effort for reconstruction of State Road 27 from Florida City to the Park entrance. The Council endorsed such action and appointed a Committee headed by Mayor Nevillo to cooperate with the Superintendent in his efforts to get this road rebuilt.

Land clearing towards the entrance of the Park in the pinelands continued. It is believed that clearing for tomato fields will reach the Park boundary within a few months. This will mean that visitors approaching the Park will be driving through agricultural land until they reach the Park boundary soon. The sudden

break between commercial use of land and National Park property has some advantage in its effect upon the visitor. It has the added advantage of giving the Park a substantial firebreak in the vicinity of the entrance.

Concessioners: As the decision for a permanent Park concessioner gain closer, the representatives of the local Rose group consulted with the Superintendent upon several occasions and there were telephone calls and correspondence with the Fred Harvey group. It is anticipated that one or the other will be chosen as the permanent Park concessioner within a month or two.

National Parks Concessions, Inc., at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors decided that this will be their last season of operation at Everglades National Park. They advised the Superintendent accordingly.

Everglades Transway Service began the Cuthbert Lake trip on January 24. Its Coot Bay shhedule of trips is continuing.

Mark Hamilton, charterboat operator gave up his Coot Bay concession permit before final processing. Mr. Hamilton said that it was just too hard work for the money received. He is expected to opefate from Everglades City as formerly done.

Wendell Williams, younger brother of Finis Williams, started operating his brother's charterboat out of Coot Bay this month. Finis was killed last year and his wife was allowed to keep his concession until it expires at the end of this year.

The number of silver mullet permit applications received is down this year from last. Twenty-five applications were mialed out to last season's permittees and only 21 of them indicated a desire to renew the permits.

Cooperating Government Agencies: U.S.D.A. Pink Boll Worm Cotton Eradication crews working out of Flamingo are now in the areas around Snake Bight and the road toward Crocodile Point. The houseboat crew working the north part of Florida Bay has moved down to the Lignumvitae Key area outside the Park.

Weather stations operated by the Park were inspected by a Weather Bureau official during the month.

Travel: More visitors entered Everglades National Park during January than in any other month in Park history. A total of 33,061 people visited the Park which topped February (31,265) of last year. The breakdown was as follows: Private motor vehicles, 31,342; private motor boats, 1,894; busses, 616; walking, 8; and bicycles, 2.

All states were represented as well as nine Canadian provinces, Alaska, Iceland, Cuba, Virgin Islands, England, Denmark, Iraq, Isreal, China, Fiji Islands, and Hawaii.

"Greater Miami's tourist business in January increased nine percent over last year" according to University of Miami's Tourist Trade Index. The report continued: "Air traffic continues to bring more people. * * * The increase is at an astonishing rate of 30% over January 1954. Rail figures are down 10%. Motor traffic showed expected volume."

It is noteworthy that race course attendance (a usual indicator of the success of the Gold Coast season) decreased slightly. "This is a factor to consider in appraising our visitor attractions" the airport noted, "because of the current multitude of appealing interests (other than race tracks) that are bringing more tourists to south Florida."

Visitors:

Superintendent and Mrs. Edward Hummel of Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Chief Ranger and Mrs. Granville B. Liles and 2 children of Great Smoky Mountains National Park
E. M. Dale, Chief Ranger, Blue Ridge Parkway
Edward Stephanic, former Assistant Chief Ranger in Everglades and now a contractor in New Jersey
David Jones. Assistant Superineendent, Big Bend National Park
Mike Becker, District Ranger, Blue Ridge Parkway
James Howell, Supervisory Park Ranger, Shiloh National Memoraal Park
Kurt Severin, free-lance photographer, connected with Sports Illustrated

Ranger Service:

Patrol mileage for January was as follows:

Car	11,673 miles
Boat	2,183 miles
Airboat	544 miles
Total	14,400 miles

Four University of Miami students reported lost in the Cape Sable District were found by Park personnel January 31 near Slagle's Ditch. They had gone too far in their rented skiff on their limited supply of gasoline and were unable to make it back to Brown's Camp. The boys spent the night on Cape Sable Beach and were none the worse from the experience.

Assistance was given the Park Naturalist in handling a group of 300 scouts of varying ages. A fire equipment demonstration was conducted for the group by District Ranger McDowell and Supervisory Fire Control Aid Shilts.

Visitation to the Royal Palm District is increasing steadily. During weekends directing traffic in this district occupies much of the rangers' time. Five portable "No Parking This Side: signs placed between Royal Palm Ranger Station and the bridge east of the station helped to alleviate congestion.

Law Enforcement: As reported in previous monthly reports, four local men were arrested for hunting in the park from an airboat and were tried and convicted in Federal Court at Miami. On January 14, defendants Sullivan, Roberts, Bagwell, and Williams were each fined $300 on the count that found each guilty of hunting in the park. In addition Judge Choate sentenced each man to two months imprisonment on each guilty count (Sullivan, hunting only; Roberts and Bagwell, hunting and firearms; and Williams, hunting, firearms, and operating an airboat in the park). The imprisonment was suspended and the men placed on probation for one year.

On January 28 the State of Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission brought the same men before Judge R. D. Zetterower at Tavernier, charging them with hunting out of season. The State's evidence was based on our case. The four defendants entered a plea of "nolle contendere." All were found guilty and fined $50 each except Sullivan who was assessed an additional $25.93 costs. The fines were paid in one dollar bills, supposedly collected, according to Rusty Sullivan, in Homestead from friends of the "poor poachers."

Three cases were heard before U. S. Commissioner Hodson during the month. Two were for speeding on park roads and one for possession of firearms. A total of $70 in fines resulted.

Fire Control: There were three reportable fires and a non-statistical one during the month. One of the fires, believed started by hunters operating from a glades buggy in the "hole-in-the-doughnut" area, reached Long Pine Key, burning 1,936 acres of whic 768 were park land. Wind gusts up to 40 miles per hour

hindered control and threatened established lines. Legal counsel is being sought by the U. S. Commissioner and Chief Ranger to determine whether a case can be made against the hunters.

Accidents: Two non-collision automobile accidents occurred on Park roads. One person suffered minor injury when a car left the road at the curve one mile south of Coot Bay.

The other vehicular accident involved one of Park contractor Alonzo Cothron's trucks in whch three of his employees were riding. The left front tire of the truck blew out, with resulting loss of control and capsizing of the vehicle. One man was slightly hurt in getting out of the truck after the accident.

On January 19 Mrs. Ethel Montgomery of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, tripped and fell while walking on the charterboat dock at Coot Bay. She suffered an injured left wrist and abrasions. She has since requested and has been furnished the necessary forms to file a tort claim (our first) against the Park.

Public Health: Arrangements were made with Mr. Frazier of the Florida State Board of Health, Miami Laboratory, to test Park drinking water bacteriologically and chemically. Flamingo picnic area water showed contamination and action was taken to correct it. The supply was discontinued to the public until it is made safe.

Oil Exploration: The Gulf Oil Company has drilled another "dry hole" on Park land. They reached a depth of 11.615 feet without finding commercial quantities of oil. Their drilling equipment is now stockpiled at the drill site and whether they plan to try again is not known.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

In reply refer to:
A2823

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
P. O. BOX 275
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

January 3, 1955

Memorandum

To: Superintendent

From: Assistant Superintendent

Subject: Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report

Administration

Personnel: David O. Karraker, e.o.d. in the newly established position, Pos. # 70, Park Naturalist, GS-422-5, on December 4.

Position # 9, a new temporary position, of Biologist, GS-401-7, was established on December 8.

Position # 71, Supervisory Park Ranger, GS-453-6, Lostman's River Subdistrict, was established December 9 in lieu of the Park Ranger, incumbent Marcus B. Parker.

Position # 8, District Park Ranger, GS-453-7, Tamiami District, was established December 9, in lieu of Supervisory Park Ranger (District Ranger), incumbent Erwin C. Winte.

Position # 11, Fiscal Accounting Clerk, GS-501-5, was approved effective December 6, involving a Redescription of Duties, incumbent, Florence Schwartz.

Position # 65, Clerk-Stenographer, GS-312-4, was approved December 6, involving a Redescription of Duties, incumbent, Helen Rea.

Position # 58, Voucher and Payroll Clerk, GS-301-4, was established December 6, in lieu of the Cost Clerk position, incumbent, Maude Harriott.

George W. Fry
Assistant Superintendent

GWFry:mrb

In reply refer to:
[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

January [illegible]

Memorandum

To: Superintendent

From: Assistant Superintendent

Subject: Superintendent's Monthly Operation Report

Administration

Personnel: [illegible], [illegible], is the newly established position, Pos. # [illegible], Park Naturalist, [illegible], on December 4.

Position # [illegible], a new temporary position, of Biologist, [illegible], was established on December 5.

Position # [illegible], Supervisory Park Ranger, [illegible], Lassen's River Subdistrict, was established December [illegible] in lieu of the Park Ranger, incumbent [illegible].

Position # [illegible], District Park Ranger, [illegible], Tahoe District, was established December [illegible], in lieu of Supervisory Park Ranger (District Ranger), incumbent [illegible].

Position # [illegible], Fiscal Accounting Clerk, [illegible], was approved effective December [illegible], involving a Redescription of Duties, incumbent, [illegible].

Position # [illegible], Clerk-Stenographer, [illegible], was approved December [illegible], involving a Redescription of Duties, incumbent, [illegible].

Position # [illegible], Voucher and Payroll Clerk, [illegible], was established December [illegible], in lieu of the Cost Clerk position, incumbent, [illegible].

George W. Fry
Assistant Superintendent

File

Summary of the February 1955 Monthly Narrative Report
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

		Page
GENERAL:	General report on south Florida.	1
WEATHER CONDITIONS:	Lowest average rainfall for month in seven years.	1
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Request of Biologist for a year's leave of absence.	2
INSPECTIONS:		2
PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS:	B.P.R. made studies of road area. Waterflow data collected for Flamingo-Coot Bay Canal.	2
COMPLAINTS:	Bad condition of Ingraham Highway.	2
MAINTENANCE:	New cables on boatlift at Coot Bay. Old water tanker underwent extensive repairs.	2
CONSTRUCTION:	Final inspection made on Contract 14-10-111-41. Award made to Alonzo Cothron on Bulkheading Contract 14-10-111-43. Project 1A1 for stockpiling of oolitic borrow advertised by B.P.R.	3
COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:	Plans for mapping of south Florida discussed with U.S.G.S. and U.S. C.&G.S.	3
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:	Naturalist Dilley assigned to Grand Canyon. Talk for special groups.	3
NATURAL HISTORY:	Increase of roseate spoonbill, manatee, and white pelicans in Florida Bay District.	4
TRAVEL:	Two unusually cold weeks brought attendance for February below 1954 level for month.	4

		PAGE
VISITORS:		5
RANGER SERVICE:	Congested traffic at Royal Palm-Anhinga Trail areas. Additional directional signs posted in attempt to alleviate situation.	5
POLICE PROTECTION:	Four cases heard before U.S. Commissioner in speed violation. Hunters' case held under advisement (alleged arson case.) Stopnet removed from creek in Park.	5
FIRE CONTROL:	Four statistical fires.	6
ACCIDENTS:	Three noncollision accidents. Contractor's employee injured.	6
OIL EXPLORATION:	Gulf Oil's new well in Sandy Key outside Park.	6

In reply refer to:
A2023

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
FEBRUARY 1955

General: February 1955 marked the highest travel peak ever attained in southern Florida. It was not a very good month weatherwise, though. The tourists did not get rained upon (which was good from their angle), nor did they get suntans which is the hallmark of a Florida vacation (and that was bad). It was a cloudy month--most unusual!--with several cool spells, one of which plummeted temperatures in the park to a chilly 37°.

All tourist accommodations reached their peak occupancy, yet so great have they expanded that the saturation point was never reached. International Airport looked more and more like a New York subway station at rush hour. Increase in air traffic during February taxed the facilities of all major airlines to the utmost. Shuttle service from New York, Washington, and Chicago was as routine and as crowded as local bus service.

This tremendous travel into Greater Miami area did not reflect in a big increase in travel at Everglades National Park. In fact, there was a decrease of around 2% as compared with the same month last year. There is every indication that this was because of cool weather the first two weeks of the month. Nevertheless, all park facilities and personnel were stretched to the utmost with a few signs of "coming apart at the seams." Wildlife "shows" were good. Fire hazard was building up to dangerous proportions. Those who hazard educated guesses predict March will be almost as big a month as February this year.

Weather Conditions: Average rainfall for park stations was only .26 inches which is far below a seven-year average of 2.05 inches. The Shark River Basin was not as dry as cumulative rainfall deficiency would indicate, however, due probably to increased seepage from water storage above Tamiami Trail resulting from the flood control project. Temperatures ranged from a low of 37° to a more comfortable high of 88°.

Readings from stations follow:

	Max Temp	Mean Max	Min Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	88°	79.0°	39°	54.2°	35"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	83°	77.1°	38°	57.8°	(T)
Tamiami Ranger Station	85°	77.5°	37°	57.1°	0.44"
Florida Bay Ranger Station	82°	76.3°	44°	64.2°	0.51"

Special Activities: The Park Biologist attended a meeting of the Council of the Florida Academy of Sciences (of which he is President) at Lakeland. A Conservation Committee was authorized as an Academy function. He also went to the American Museum of Natural History in New York while on leave to study a special assignment. As a result an eleven-month leave of absence was requested.

Inspections: The following officials visited the Park:

Howard Stagner, Principal Naturalist from Washington, to study development plans in relation to interpretation.

Ross Sweeny and Warren J. Oliver, Engineers from E.O.D.C. to prepare for supervision of Bulkhead Contract 14-10-111-43.

Jackson E. Price, Chief of Lands from Washington and E. M. Lisle, Assistant Regional Director, to go over strategy in relation to land acquisition on Gulf Coast and other matters.

Raymond Mulvany, Regional Administrative Officer, to study budgets, personnel proposals, and related subjects.

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: Bureau of Public Road work consisted of computation and checking of oolitic borrow, mail borrow, and muck excavation areas. Areas for clearing, grubbing, and seeding were checked. Studies were made for circulating roads, parking areas, and drainage at Flamingo. This was all in the road section between Flamingo and West Lake. Beyond, to Concrete Bridge, cross sectioning and soil surveys were continued. A reconnaissance was made of the "Bee-Line" route from 9-Mile Bend east or northeast to Royal Palm Station.

Waterflow data were collected during the time that the Flamingo-Coot Bay Canal remained open. This information was sent to E.O.D.C. and indicates no appreciable ecological difficulties will arise from the project.

Complaints: Ingraham Highway was in bad shape, especially where it went through the "Hole-in-the-Doughnut". With last year's rains and this winter's dust, topping material along the highway had either washed or blown thin. Many complaints were made and concessioners felt it had hurt business.

Maintenance: New cables were put on the boatlift at Coot Bay and other repairs made to put this facility back into service.

The old water tanker used to haul water to Coot Bay and Flamingo underwent extensive repairs. A new bottom had to be welded on the tank.

Construction: Dredging and Filling, Contract 14-10-111-41: Final inspection was made February 18 and the work was accepted by the Government. A total of 197,229 cubic yards costing $67,168.70 was approved. A new "river" now exists from Florida Bay to Coot Bay with channel deepened about a mile out into Florida and to Tarpon Creek. Studies by park engineers indicate minimum ecological change will result.

Bulkheading Contract, 14-10-111-43: Award was made to Alonzo Cothron with Assistant Director's approval on February 15. Notice to proceed was dated February 21. The first phase of work will be gathering oolitic fill from Basins 1 and 2 for backfill and riprap. Contractor is subbing to Pre-Cast Corp. of Miami who will prefabricate the concrete bulkheading. Engineer M. Stump of E.O.D.C. was selected as contracting officer's representative. Total award for the job is $169,838.39.

Project 1A1 for stockpiling of oolitic borrow at Flamingo was advertized by B.P.R. Bids will be opened March 16.

Cooperating Government Agencies: Plans were discussed with representatives of the U. S. Geological Survey and the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey regarding the mapping of south Florida, including the coastal waters and interior of Everglades National Park. In preparation for establishing triangulation station in Everglades National Park, District Ranger Mrazek spent one day with a Coast and Geodetic Survey crew relocating markers in the Cape Sable District.

Members of the Park Protection Staff accompanied Assistant Area Leader Bittner, in charge of the Pink Bollworm Cotton Eradication work, in an inspection of the areas worked by the crews during the past several months. No adverse cutting was noted and the work accomplished appeared to be in accord with Park Service desires.

Mr. Leonard Pardue of the Miami Office, U. S. Weather Bureau, inspected the Park stations at Royal Palm and Tamiami. Mr. Pardue was interested solely in wind observations, especially with regard to the Park's cooperative action in reporting wind velocities during hurricane periods.

Interpretive Services: Park Naturalist Willard E. Dilley completed his last full month in charge of the interpretive work of the Park. He will transfer to Grand Canyon National Park in March.

Following are statistics for February interpretive services:

36 Guided walks, Gumbo Limbo Trail - 556 persons
4 Saturday guided hikes - 93 persons
5 Special group walks - 163 persons
100 Boat trips - 900 passengers
3 Night Prowls - 64 persons
25 Evening talks at Anhinga Trail - 1,040 persons
4 Sunday evening slide talks - 282 persons
Contacts at manned stations - 9,568 persons

Natural History: The fecundity of Ajaia ajaja is gratifying. Or, we might put it another way and say that District Ranger Bean brought off a fine crop of roseate spoonbills this winter in Florida Bay. According to nest counts, 380 young pinks were reared. It seems worth recalling that Alexander Sprunt, Jr., reported a total population of 300 adults and young for Florida at the American Ornithologist Union's meeting in 1938. Although no phenomenal increase in pinks has erupted--nor was it expected--and although mainland habitats (Gator Lake) have not been reoccupied, the roseate spoonbill population this year is in as healthy a condition as it has been since before the 1935 hurricane at least. Nests were found on Low Key for the first time and at Bottle Key after a lapse of several years. Nest counts have run: 1951 - 64; 1952 - 78; 1953 - 48; 1954 - 81; and 1955 - 174.

Not to be outdistanced by its brother (or sister) rare species, the manatees of Everglades National Park also appear to be fecund. District Ranger Mrazek reported from 40 to 50 in the area of northeastern Whitewater Bay on one day's patrol. We wonder if an overgrazing problem will develop on the "northern Everglades manatee range."

The number of white pelicans using Florida Bay in winter has shown a gradual increase. About 500 of these spectacular birds were regularly observed in Little Madeira Bay.

A total of 13 small alligators, 26 turtles, and 8 water snakes were released in the Royal Palm Ranger District.

Travel: A total of 30,556 persons visited the Park during February, a reduction of approximately 2% as compared to the corresponding month last year. The reduction is believed attributable to the cold weather experienced during the first two weeks of the month.

All states were represented as well as Alaska, seven Canadian provinces, and 12 foreign countries. A survey at the

entrance station of the vehicles not included (for example, National Park Service, concessioners, landowners in the "Hole-in-the-Doughnut," and sales supply trucks) in the monthly visitor report accounted for 9.5% of the total vehicles entering the Park.

Visitors:

William Anderson, Walt Disney Studios
Ralph Palmer, New York State Museum
Mr. and Mrs. Burman, Readers Digest
David Goodnow, Sports Illustrated
V. D. Sutherland, Wildlife Photographer (Washington, D. C.)
T. T. Ranney, District Engineer, U. S. Geological Survey
Ted Williams, baseball player (and fisherman)

Ranger Service: The Anhinga and Gumbo-Limbo Trails, along with the Royal Palm Ranger Station continue to get the greater part of the total number of persons visiting the Park. As a result, traffic in this limited area is congested, especially during weekends. Every effort is being made to alleviate the difficulty through wise traffic control. Additional directional signs were erected during the month, and key protection personnel are on duty in this area over the weekends.

Patrol mileage for February was as follows:

Car	9,501 miles
Boat	2,698 miles
Airboat	370 miles
Total - -	12,569 miles

Police Protection: Four cases were heard before U. S. Commissioner Hodson for violation of Sec. 20.45(i) Speed, and $65 in in fires were imposed. In another case involving Section 1.2, Preservation of Public Property, the person cited failed to appear and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Messrs. E. H. Barnes, Rodney Roberts, and Columbus Hollifield were tried before the Commissioner for violation of Section 1856 of the U. S. Code, Title 18. These men were the ones believed responsible for starting the Glades Buggy Fire of January 23. The Commissioner heard the evidence and has the case under advisement, pending a discussion of it with Federal Judge John W. Holland.

A 50-yard stopnet was removed from the mouth of a small creek emptying into Long Sound by District Ranger Bean. Investigation continues.

Fire Control: During February, there were four statistical fires, one of which burned 175 acres of grassland inside the Park. A map of the east fire boundary, showing the agricultural lands, pine, and glades was finished and the information transferred to the fire maps in the Dispatcher's Office and Fire Cache.

Assistance was given to the Navy Pumping Station on February 28 in suppressing a wildfire on that military reservation.

Accidents: Three noncollision accidents occurred during the month. Damage was minor and no one was injured.

Erwin Ash, an employee of Contractor Alonzo Cothron, suffered an injury to his groin while handling a winch on one of the company's dredges.

Oil Exploration: The only equipment remaining at Gulf Oil's dry hole in the Tamiami District is the casing, which, we understand, the company plans to move to their proposed operation in the vicinity of Sandy Key. This new well will be off Park land. The remainder of the equipment from the "dry hole" was moved by the Tri-State Drilling Company to a new exploration site 20 miles east of Acadia, Florida.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

RECENT DESTRUCTION DONE BY MAGNOLIA OIL COMPANY BOTH SIDES OF LOOP ROAD IN NEW ADDITION TO THE PARK (ON PRIVATE LANDS)

HAZARDOUS MEETING OF PEDESTRIANS AND CARS AT ANHINGA TRAIL PARKING AREA

NECESSARY PARKING OF VEHICLES BEYOND ANHINGA TRAIL PARKING AREA TOWARD ROYAL PALM RANGER STATION PRODUCES ONE WAY TRAFFIC WITH RELATED RISKS

File

Summary of the March 1955 Monthly Narrative Report
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

		Page
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Conferences held with State officials relative to completion of Park. Site evaluation made of Ft. Pierce lands.	1
WEATHER CONDITIONS:	Drought reached serious proportions.	1
INSPECTIONS:		2
PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS:	Preliminary plans started for West Lake and revision of maintenance area. State to make land surveys in Park.	2
GENERAL PUBLICITY:	Newspapers carried news and editorials about Park because of State public hearing.	2
MAINTENANCE:	Excellent shop and maintenance work became evident. Work done on buildings, grading areas, and glades buggy.	2
CONSTRUCTION:	Bulkheading contract in operation. Bids taken for stockpile for road.	3
APPROACHES TO PARK:	Dawal Farms'land clearing is giving dramatic effect to Park entrance.	3
CONCESSIONS:	Everglades Park Co. chosen as concessioner, but motel plans at Flamingo ruled out. N.P.C., Inc., to move out.	4
COOPERATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:	U.S.D.A. crews closed winter operations in Park.	4
DONATIONS AND ACCESSIONS:	Plant material given to Park.	4
INTERPRETIVE SERVICE:	Regular activities ended. Data on scheduled events noted. New signs erected.	4

		Page
NATURAL HISTORY:	Contradictory spring arrived. Rookeries excellent. Mosquito season to be severe.	4
TRAVEL:	Greater Miami travel exceeded expectations. Total of 31,628 visited Park.	5
VISITORS:		5
RANGER SERVICE:	New radios installed. Boundary posting done. Patrol mileage cited. Ground Observer Corps exercise.	6
FIRE CONTROL:	Emergency measures taken because of drought. Tamiami Trail slash hazard solved. Three fires burned 446 acres in Park.	7
ACCIDENTS:	Three auto accidents. Two dropped dead in Park and one prominent visitor died outside area.	7
PERSONNEL:	One new naturalist, three new babies augment Park force.	7

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
MARCH 1955

Special Activities: Completion of Park. Superintendent Beard and Collaborator Manly met with Assistant to Secretary Raymond Davis and Assistant Director Thomas J. Allen for a trip to Tallahassee. (Beard had been at Tallahassee for a conference on Collier grant lands the week before.) A public hearing had been called by Governor Collins whose administration had inherited the problem of completing the park. Of major concern was conveyance of State lands along the Gulf Coast and general agreement on permanent park boundaries. Prominent at the hearings and later conferences were Senator Spessard Holland, Treasurer Larson, Comptroller Green (acting), and Attorney General Erwin.

Efforts were made to reconcile certain differences of opinion and to arrive at a mutually agreeable solution through a memorandum of understanding. Tentative agreements seemed possible on all points except the proposal for a connecting road from Everglades (City) to Flamingo.

The whole understanding was held in abeyance at month's end. The biennial session of the Legislature was scheduled to begin April 5.

Landscape Architect Ammerman made site evaluation of surplus Federal lands near Ft. Pierce which St. Lucie County had requested to purchase as a recreational park. Mr. Ammerman also acting as one of the judges in the Miami Metropolitan Flower Show.

Weather Conditions: The drought continued for the fourth consecutive month, resulting in a rapidly falling water table. Fish died in Park canals and in certain Glades areas. The Royal Palm Pond was aerated to improve conditions at that location. Hundreds of dead bass and bream were removed from the moat around 7-Mile Tower to reduce the unpleasant odor. For the first 28 days of the month, only one of the Park's four ranger stations reported any rainfall, a mere .02 inches at Tamiami. A general rain on the 29th relieved the situation for a few days. The Park average for March of .67 inches precipitation was considerably below the average of 1.92 inches for the corresponding month during 7 years, 1948--1954. In contrast to the dryness experienced this past month, March 1954, with 3.25 inches was the wettest March in Park history.

Because of the pleasant weather, visitation continued above average.

Readings from stations were as follow:

	Max Temp	Mean Max	Min Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm Ranger Station	87°	82.5°	41°	54.9°	0.86"
Coot Bay Ranger Station	87°	81.7°	44°	61.0°	0.31"
Tamiami Ranger Station	90°	83.8°	44°	59.3°	0.45"
Florida Bay Ranger Station	85°	80.6°	55°	70.5°	1.05"

Inspections:

Raymond Davis, Assistant to the Secretary, and Assistant Director Thomas J. Allen visited areas of the Park where there is controversy on boundaries.

Administrative Assistant Secretary Otis Beasley was in the Park for the first time. He went to several places including East River Rookery, Florida Bay, and Seven Mile Tower.

Thomas C. Vint, Chief, Division of Design and Construction and Harvey Cornell, Assistant Chief, E.O.D.C. and District Engineer Cron of B.P.R. inspected construction work, worked on road plans, and conferred with prospective concessioners.

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: A plan for interpretive walk, parking area, and boat landings at West Lake was started. So, also, were restudies of the Pine Island Maintenance Area to incorporate certain facilities that experience now indicates will require future consideration.

The Land Acquisition Office began plans to pave way for State survey by the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund of Florida of certain areas in the Park.

General Publicity: The public hearing at Tallahassee reported under "Special Activities" brought the Park again into the news throughout Florida with editorials as well as news items in such papers as the Miami Herald, St. Petersburg Times, Collier County News, Key West Citizen, and Ft. Myers News. There was also the normal radio and TV coverage one would expect as the result of such events.

Maintenance: The buildings at Tamiami Ranger Station were all repainted and the paint brush was used to sharpen up several

structures at Coot Bay. Muck soil was removed at the airboat landing at Tamiami for better use of that area.

Areas around the bunkhouse and maintenance area were graded for better natural runoff when (and if) the rains come again.

The shop reported "The Anderson Company sent a new valve control for the mower attachment free of charge. It was installed and now the mower doesn't work at all."

Work was started on the Terratrac glades buggy to take out some of the numerous "bugs" and make it a more useable piece of equipment.

Maintenance and shop activities in the Park have never been as excellent as during this winter season. Better working conditions, more adequate tools and equipment, good supervision, increased "knowhow," and a fine spirit of cooperation characterize these vital activities. The Park looks better and "runs better" than ever before in its history.

Construction: Test Wells, Account No. 332.10: Monthly tests on three wells continue. Ran check levels to Well No. 1.

Bulkheading Contract No. 14-10-111-43, Account No. 333.3: Contractor, Alonzo Cothron, began drilling and blasting and draglining underwater rock at Flamingo marine basins to be used as fill material on this contract. Engineer Stump arrived to become Resident Engineer on this project. Park Engineer McCabe made several trips to Pre-Cast Corp. plant (Cothron's subcontractor for pre-cast concrete units on this contract) with Stump.

Flamingo-Coot Bay Canal: A record of staff gage readings on the North side and the South side of Ingraham Highway plus was collected.

B.P.R. Project 1A1, Dredging and Stockpiling Oolite Borrow: Bids on this project were opened 11:00 a.m., March 16. There were five bidders. Low bid was for $597,000 from Brinson Construction Co., Tampa, Florida.

Approaches to Park Area: Dawal Farms' big land clearing operation continued and pinelands are fast disappearing along Florida Route 27 between the prison camp and the Park entrance. Most of the area will be under cultivation next winter. The abrupt and dramatic change from cleared or farmland to the green hammocks and pines of the Park is already a subject of comment.

Concessions: The Superintendent attended conferences at the Director's Office relating to (1) selection of a Park concessioner and, (2) decision on extent of concession developments at Flamingo.

A corporation known as Everglades Park Company, Inc., received the nod. The company is made up of Miami businessmen whose directors are: A. M. Tyler, Thomas Rose, Robert Knight (to be manager), Allen Kessler (attorney), and George Pegram. They immediately began making plans for contract negotiations. Fred Harvey, Inc., was the unsuccessful applicant.

It was decided that overnight accommodations (motels) would be eliminated from Flamingo plans, at least for now, and the Everglades Park Co. accepted this condition.

National Parks Concessions, Inc., was released from its obligation at Coot Bay as of April 30. This fine organization has done much for the Park under difficult, pioneering conditions.

Cooperating Governmental Agencies: U.S.D.A. Pink Bollworm Cotton Eradication crews working out of Flamingo and Florida Bay discontinued operation at the close of the month. The agency plans to have the crews return to the Park next December.

Donations and Accessions: Morgan Nurseries of South Miami presented the Park with 208 sea grape plants and other plant material.

Interpretive Services: Fund shortages made it necessary to reduce seasonal personnel in spite of heavy visitation by March 14.

Statistics for the month were:

21 Nature walks, Gumbo Limbo Trail, 274 visitors
Nature walks, Anhinga Trail, 470 visitors
3 Illustrated talks, 183 attended
20 Cuthbert Rookery boat trips, 134 people
14 Night Prowls, 463 visitors
9 Special groups, 552 people

Two signs were set up below Coot Bay as part of the Self-Guiding Tour. Both proved immediately popular. One pointed out and explained strangler figs at work. The other told the brief story of the mangrove forest.

Natural History: Mahogany trees were showing reddish leaves; "cows horn" and "mule ear" orchids bloomed; Jamaica dogwoods were shedding their leaves; swallow-tailed kites arrived; black-whiskered vireos were beginning to sing along the Keys; roseate spoonbills had

left this nesting grounds; bull alligators were starting their nuptial "songs"; flights of migrating warblers passed through to the north; mockingbirds and chuck-wills-widows sang at night; and farmers began to finish last pickings of tomatoes. So, in its contradictory way, spring came to South Florida.

Bird rookeries were all in excellent shape with young ready to leave their nests or already trying their wings. Concentrations of white ibis at the old Shark River rookery site (defunct since 1946-47) gave rise to hope that something might happen there. The two flamingoes remained at Lake Ingraham. District Ranger Bean found two reddish egret nests containing eggs at West Key. About 100 avocets were at East Cape Canal. And, a large alligator killed and devoured a three-foot 'gator in full view of the lookout atop Seven Mile Tower.

It will be a bad mosquito season this year. Future reports will state (under "Complaints") that Miami mosquito abatement people, unable to cope with the situation, will be pointing accusing fingers at the Everglades as reputed source of all their troubles.

Travel: Tourist trade for the three months period ending in March exceeded all expectations. March was better in South Florida than a year ago and even exceeded the peak of 1953. Miami Beach maintained 90 percent average occupancy all month. Over-all traffic figures showed an increase of 6 percent in number of arrivals. Airlines continued up with an estimated 25.5 percent increase while rail arrivals were down 7.0 percent. About 322,000 people arrived in Greater Miami and 323,000 left.

Park travel continued good. More persons (31,628) visited the area this past month than in any other month in Park history except for January 1955 (33,061). Of interest is that an estimated 2,100 persons entered Park waters from points along the Keys, an increase of 13% above March 1954 for Florida Bay. This increase was not reflected in the Royal Palm District, but instead a slight decrease was recorded. Favorable weather apparently induced a greater number of people than normal to travel by boat.

All states (except Idaho and Utah), Puerto Rico, 7 Canadian Provinces, and 12 foreign countries were recorded within the Park.

Visitors:

Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Brandt, ornithologist and author, Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Samuel Grimes, ornithologist and photographer, Jacksonville, Florida.

H. Nulson Baur, manager, automobile club in Missouri.

Cecil H. A. Duke, manager, California State Automobile Association.

Stephen Trumbull of the Miami Herald.

Frank Williams, Vice President of the Tropical Audubon Society.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Lawrence, cinematographer, Washington, D. C.

Max F. Gleissner, in charge of all field parties, U. S. Geological Survey.

Dr. Werner H. Bornheim, exchange student from Germany.

Dr. J. L. Fechtner, cinematographer.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Ewing, friends of Congressman Michael J. Kirwan, Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and related agencies.

Dr. Bouliere of France, author of Natural History of Mammals.

Guy Montfort of Britain with Roger Tory Peterson, co-authors of Field Guide to Birds of Britain and Europe.

Ranger Service: New 250-watt radios were installed at Florida Bay, Lostman's River, and Tamiami Ranger Stations. The 60-watt set replaced at Florida Bay was installed in the Royal Palm Ranger Station. A new console 60-watt set was placed in each of the Park's two towers. Distribution of 15 new pack sets was made to the various districts. Tests made with these pack sets from remote areas in the Park have shown them to be effective in reaching key fixed stations, a decided improvement over our other portable sets.

Because of the considerable farming of lands in the "Hole-in-the-Doughnut," particularly along the Park's boundary line between Long Pine Key Road and Ingraham Highway, this seven miles of boundary was carefully marked and posted during the month.

Patrol mileage for March was as follows:

Car	10,170
Boat	2,614
Airboat	250

Park Protection personnel participated from March 23 through 25 in a Ground Observer Corps exercise. Our staff made 180 observations requiring 158 collect colls to the Filter Center in Miami. A letter of commendationwas received from the Air Defense Force as a result of our work.

Fire Control: An emergency fire control aid, GS-4, was entered on duty March 15 because of critical fire conditions.

Continued drought and lowering water table necessitated closing the Park to campfires beginning March 26.

The east boundary patrol was stepped up by the addition of a second patrolman, enabling each man to cover his assigned area more adequately and to increase his contact with persons living along this boundary.

From the intersection of Route 27 (Krome Avenue) with the Tamiami Trail to the Collier County line, a distance of approximately 25 miles, State Highway forces pruned the limbs from Australian pines several weeks ago. The limbs were stacked in neat piles just off and south of the motor road with resulting hazard to the Park as the needles dried. A mutual attempt by State Highway and Park forces to burn the piles proved to be too hazardous, too slow, and too costly. As a result, the State is carrying all the slash a safe distance back from the motor road. At month's end considerable hauling yet remained to be done.

Three reportable fires burned 446 acres inside the Park. One of the fires, the first to start this year on Park lands, resulted from a Boy Scout campfire. Coupled with the suppression of this fire was the loss of the scout troop responsible for it with resulting frantic inquiries by several parents. The troop was finally found in a park in nearby Florida City.

Accidents: There were three automobile accidents with minor personal injury on one.

Two persons dropped dead in the Park because of heart attacks. On March 13, Mr. Wilfred Griffin of Dalton, Massachusetts, died in the Parachute Key Campground. Seven days later, Michael Hartmann of Middle Village, New York,,was fatally stricken in the cab of the Long Pine Key Tower. In both instances, members of the protection force arrived with a resuscitator. Although the machine was used promptly, neither man was revived. It seems odd but the saying "Bad events usually come in threes," appears appropriate in this instance for on March 8 Dr. Herbert Brandt, friend of Everglades National Park, dropped dead in Homestead following a visit the day before to the rookery at East River.

Personnel:

Ernst T. Christensen entered on duty as Park Naturalist on March 27 by transfer and promotion from Grand Canyon National Park. Willard Dilley transferred to Christensen's former position.

Mechanic's Helper and Mrs. Wallace Key announced the arrival of a baby girl, Terry.

A son, Davis B. came to the household of Assistant Chief Ranger and Mrs. Ralph Maxwell.

Park Engineer and Mrs. John C. McCabe had a son, John C. II.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

Summary of the April-May 1955 Monthly Narrative Report
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

		Page
WEATHER CONDITIONS:	Drouth continued until May 15	1
PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS:	Prewitt, Prewitt and Nall are surveying the park. Plans for a main park road were made.	1
CONSTRUCTION:	Levies built. Barge loads of bulkheading brought in.	1
APPROACHES TO PARK AREA:	Land clearing was stepped up.	2
STATE LEGISLATION:	Neblett Memorial. Governor Collins' conference report.	2
NATURAL HISTORY:	Birds in Shark River Rookery. Interesting wild life reported seen. Report on present dike system.	2
CONCESSIONS:	Everglades Park Company contract completed.	3
VISITORS:		3
RANGER SERVICE:	Reported alligator poaching. Patrol mileage cited.	3
LAW ENFORCEMENT:	Several violations. Cases reviewed.	4
OIL EXPLORATION:	Gulf Oil Company's equipment near Seven-Mile Tower Road was moved.	4
FIRE CONTROL:	Four fires burned 1,000 acres inside the park in Tamiami District in April. Three fires in May burned 126½ acres in park.	4
PUBLIC HEALTH:	Chlorinator installed.	4
TRAVEL:	Park travel higher than in previous years.	4
COOPERATING GOV'T AGENCIES:	Inspections by U. S. Corps of Engineers and U.S. Coast Guard.	5

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
APRIL and MAY 1955

Note: Because of lack of stenographic help and other factors it has been necessary to combine this report for a two-months' period.

Weather Conditions: Although there was an average in rainfall for the park stations of 1.96 inches in April, drouth conditions prevailed until May 15 when there were general rains throughout the park. Showers continued, bringing the average for the month to 4.12 inches which is about correct for May. However, accumulated deficiencies reflected in lower water levels, so that by month's end the area was still critically dry.

Readings from stations were as follows: (left-hand figures are for April, right hand for May)

	Max Temp		Mean Max		Min Temp		Mean Min		Rainfall	
Royal Palm Station	90	94	84.9	87.9	353	67	60.6	62.4	2.11"	6.51"
Coot Bay Station	88	89	83.5	86.65	757	59	63.7	66.5	1.95	1.73
Tamiami Station	91	97	85.8	90.1	53	54	60.7	63.0	2.44	6.89
Florida Bay	85	85	81.8	81.8	66	66	71.7	71.7	1.37	1.37

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: The firm of Prewitt, Prewitt and Nall from Clewiston, Florida, were engaged by the trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund through Angus engineering firm of Jacksonville to survey T.59 S., R. 35 E., in the park. Field parties are still at work, but while running lines to the township it was found that the hiatus known as Range 36½ is narrower than previously figured.

This gives a new look to the socalled "Hole in the Doughnut", with T. 58 S., R. 36 E. being placed .74 of a mile eastward.

Plans for project 1A2-6A1, main park road from Flamingo to West Lake vicinity, including parking areas at Flamingo were almost complete by the end of May. Bureau of Public Roads officials are expecting to advertise this project for bids before the middle of June.

Construction: Brinson Construction Co. of Tampa began building of levies at Flamingo within which to pump marl and oolite borrow that they will dredge from Florida Bay. This material will be stockpiled for later use in road construction. Approximately 30 acres will be within the levies.

Two barge loads of prefabricated concrete bulkheading were brought to Florida from Miami. Cothron Construction Co. continued the work of recovering oolite from boat basins at the Flamingo Marina. This material is being placed where it will form fill behind the bulkhead line. No piling or other bulkhead work had been started by the end of May.

Approaches to Park Area: Continued clearning of pinelands and rock plowing on both sides of Ingraham Highway as it approaches the park was in progress. There are now only a few scattered patches of pine in the last five miles before entering the park.

Land clearing was stepped up in the "Hole in the Doughnut" with the following areas, where little or no farming had been done before, expected to be under cultivation next winter: Sections 25,26,27, and 28 of T. 58, R. 36 and Section 16 of T. 58, R. 37.

State Legislation: The Florida Senate passed a Memorial to Congress bearing the name of Senator Neblett of Key West. The House brought it up but it could not be handled on Unanimous Consent calendar. Representative David Crockett Jones of Naples introduced a bill that would nullify the Memorial. His proposal was that the park boundaries should be studied by a Joint Committee of the Cabinet and Legislators.

The Neblett Memorial recommended a West Coast connection between lands donated for park purposes by the Colliers of Collier County and the Lostman's River area of the park. It would permit the Government to take in only a small strip of interconnecting waterways. In House debate, Representative Bernie Papy of Key West called it "a local action" and urged other representatives to support it or lose his cooperation on their bills.

Meanwhile, Governor Collins had written to the Director of the National Park Service reporting upon a conference with certain members of the Legislature and suggested that the lands within the "Hole in the Doughnut" were important for agricultural purposes. Further compromise he suggested was indicated in the general area of the Neblett Memorial.

Natural History: During April large numbers of birds gathered at the head of Shark River at the old site of the famous rookery. Later in the month they were found nesting there and the rookery continued through May. This is news because the famous Shark River Rookery has not operated since the park started in 1947. Last nesting in the area was during the winter of 1946-1947 when the rookery failed for reasons still unknown. It was known to be one of the largest and most spectacular bird rookeries in the U. S., with white ibis the predominant species. Mr. T. Gilbert Pierson, founder of the Audubon Society, reported to Congress that glossy ibis as well as other birds were nesting there when he visited the area in 1930 as a member of the official investigating group for proposed Everglades National Park.

Biologist Moore found glossy ibis again nesting at the rookery. There were some indications that the rookery was not doing too well toward the end of May and it still might "blow up". But at least it will not be because of human interference this time. Airplane reconnaissance shows that the birds were feeding all up and down the Shark River valley almost from the

eastern park boundary to the Shark River rookery.

Some interesting observations during the two months were as follows:

One flamingo was seen in front of the Flamingo Ranger's station (of all things). A black bear was reported seen on Big Key by a trout fisherman on May 4. This seems to be a fairly well substantiated observation and is a most interesting matter because bears were re-introduced at Cape Sable several months ago. A crocodile nest was found on a small key at the mouth of Trout Creek near where one was seen before in June 1953. As was the case two years ago, what appeared to be a dummy nest "without eggs" was found a short distance from the true nest. District Ranger Winte reported about ten miles south of Tamiami Trail and three miles southeast of Seven-Mile Tower, water and food conditions were ideal for feeding birds in May. It indicates that the present dike system"of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District north of the park is a factor on retention of water in this particular area of the Shark River Basin the year round. It also could have a bearing on why a nesting rookery formed at the headwaters of the Shark River this year."

Concessions: The proposed contract for the Everglades Park Company was completed and sent to the Secretary's office by the Director. Meanwhile National Park's Concessions, Inc., closed out at Coot Bay Snack Bar and this was taken over by Robert Knight who will be the General Manager for the Everglades Park Company. Everglades Transways Service representatives met with Everglades Park Company officials at the Superintendent's office to try to determine a means by which the former could be purchased. No agreement could be reached upon sale of equipment and the conference failed to accomplish anything. Cole-Everglades met with Everglades Park Company officials for the same purpose, but this also ended in a stalemate. Everglades Transways Service discontinued operations during May, but Cole-Everglades will continue until the park highway is closed due to construction.

Visitors:

Mr. Robert P. Allen, National Audubon Society
Dr. John D. Kilby, University of Florida
Lee County Outboard Club (35 boats and 210 persons)
Miami Outboard Club (67 boats)
Dr. Arthur C. Tuomey, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Courtland T. Reid, Naturalist, Mammoth Cave National Park

Ranger Service: As a result of reported alligator poaching, Protection Personnel made several night and early morning patrols. An airplane was used on two occasions in conjunction with boat patrol to search out areas under suspect. Rangers came to the assistance of three fishing parties lost in the park during the two-month period. The following statistics are for patrol mileages in April:

Car	11,459 miles
Boat	2,571 "
Airboat	121 "
Glades Buggy	49 "

Patrol mi[illegible]ges in May:

Car	10,768 miles
Boat	3,[illegible]20 "
Airboat	1[illegible]1 "
Glades Buggy	4[illegible] "
Airplane	1,3[illegible] "

Law Enforcement: An estimate of twenty alligator carcasses were found on the shores of a small creek between the north and south prongs of Shark River. Although investigations continue, no one has been apprehended. Two 25 h.p. outboard motors belonging to Everglades Transways Service were stolen from the boat "Coot" on May 15 at West Lake Dock. To date, the motors have not been recovered although local and State law enforcement agencies are cooperating on the case. Two men were apprehended in Florida Bay with spearfishing equipment. Warnings were issued to them and Service regulations prohibiting this activity explained. The Chief Ranger reviewed several law enforcement cases requiring disposition with Assistant U. S. Attorneys Warton and Rosen in Miami. Action was initiated to clear these cases as promptly as possible. There were three automobile accidents in the park during April, and one in May, only one involving any personal injury.

Oil Exploration: The Gulf Oil Company's well outside the park and approximately seven miles south of east Cape Sable was visited by the Superintendent and others during May. On the 25th of the month the well had reached 2,000 feet. During May, all drill pipe and casings stockpiled at the Gulf Oil Company's site on park land near Seven-Mile Tower Road were moved to the well at Florida Bay. After failing to strike oil in that area, it has been noted that there is difficulty in keeping Commonwealth's well (Wiseheart No. 1) and Gulf State well No. 1 north of the trail in repair. Several repair jobs had been made by bringing costly maintenance crews in from Laurel, Mississippi. Pumping at these wells is sporadic and generally there is little production.

Fire Control: Four reportable fires burning 1,000 acres inside the park occurred in the Tamiami District during April. One of the fires started from a Glades Buggy's exhaust igniting grassland outside the park. There were three fires in May, burning a total of 126½ acres inside the park.

It is worth noting that all during the spring, fire hazard has been extreme. In past years, under somewhat similar conditions, the park has been harassed by numerous project fires. Although it is not yet time to assess the fire season, it is very evident that more efficient protection has been afforded the park than would have been the case a few years ago.

Public Health: In accordance with recommendations of the U. S. Public Health service, a chlorinator was installed at Pine Island water supply during April.

Travel: Park travel for the months of April and May continued to be higher than in previous years. There were 23,154 visitors in April which is a 5.3% increase over the corresponding month last year. Weekend travel continued to be particularly heavy in the Anhinga Trail-Royal Palm area. During May, there were 2,030 visitors, which was a noteworthy 21% increase over May of 1954.

Cooperating Government Agencies: The U. S. Corps of Engineers inspected four of the five park's water-gauging stations during April. During the same month, two officials of the U. S. Coast Guard inspected the park in connection with marking the channels from east Cape Sable to Flamingo Canal. Protection Personnel participated in two Ground Observer Corps exercises resulting in 61 telephone calls to the Filter Center in Miami during May.

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

Farming Operations at Hole In Donut

1

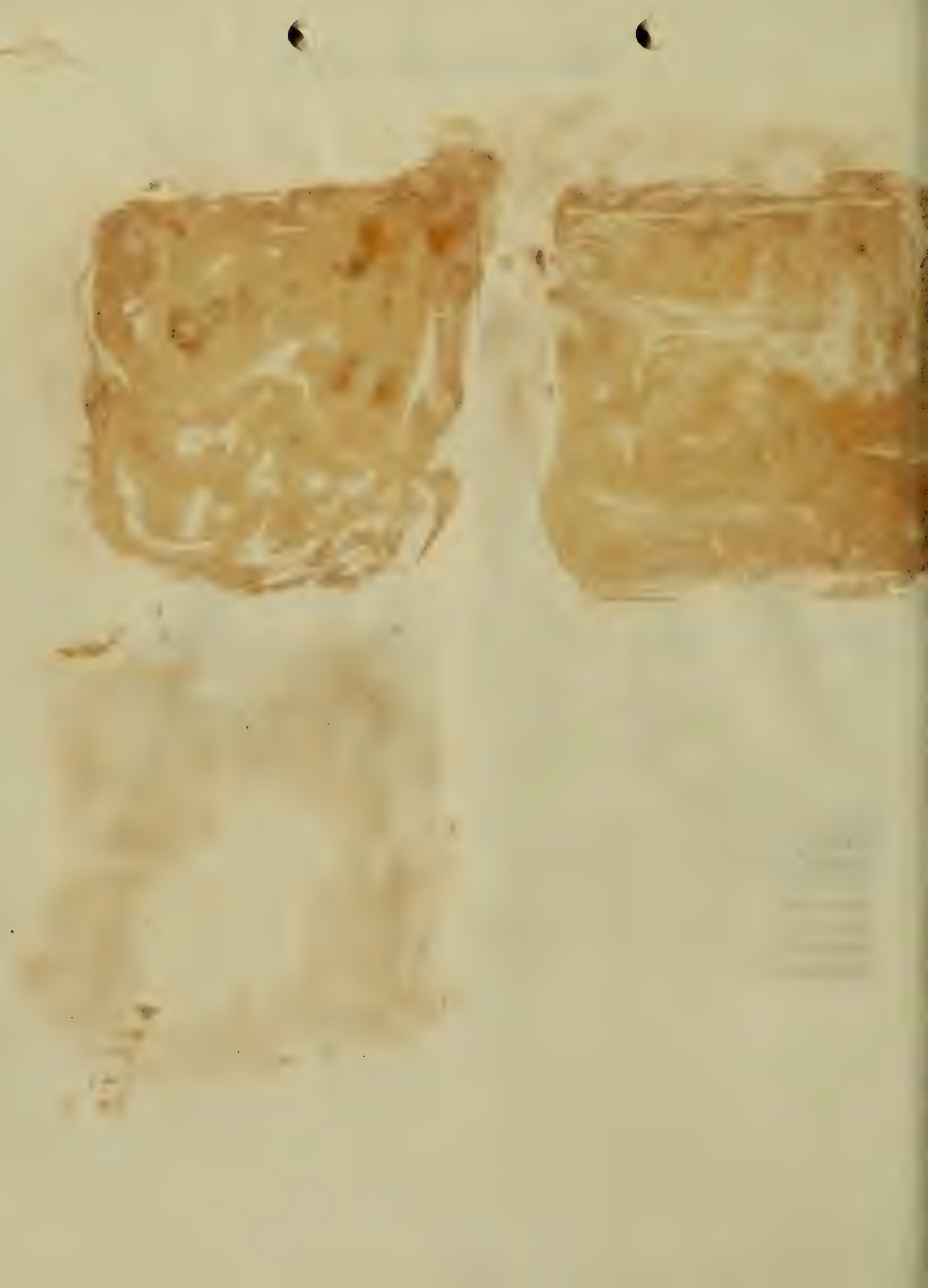
Pineland Clearing at Boundary

Showing the first step of preparing rockland for farms S. 24, T. 58 S., R. 36 E. Park boundary corner marker in right foreground with Long Pine Key road in immediate foreground. Pineland remaining (right and background) is in park. Photo is facing north.

2

Pineland and Glade Clearing

Looking west along Long Pine Key Road where clearing and rock plowing is 6/10 of a mile north and 1½ miles south of road



FLORIDA-JUNE-1955

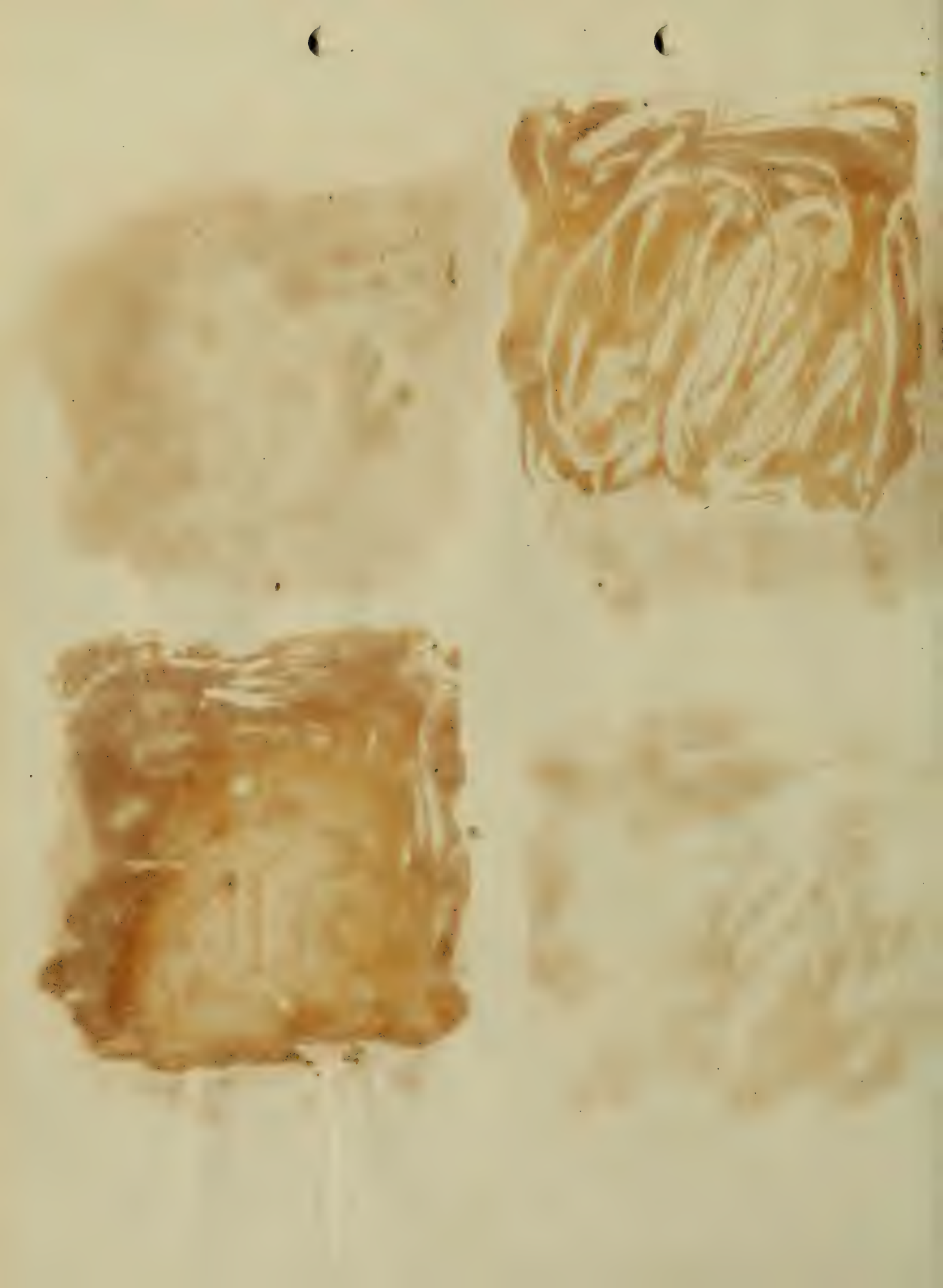
Oil Derrick

Showing Gulf Oil Company's exploration rig in the Gulf of Mexico just outside park boundaries near Sandy Key.

FLORIDA-JUNE-1955

New Patrol Craft

Showing the recently purchased Forest Johnson "Prowler", 25'10" length, shallow draft, powered by twin 130 h.p. Herberg engines. Guaranteed maximum speed of 42 m.p.h. The craft is being used at Cape Sable Ranger District (Coot Bay-Shark River-Gulf-Lostman's River)



Rockplowing and Rolling in New Farmland
Just East of Park Entrance

FLORIDA-JUNE-1955

FLORIDA-JUNE-1955

FLORIDA-JUNE-1955

FLORIDA-JUNE-1955

New Farmland Near Park Entrance

(Last year this time it was all pineland)

Looking West Toward Park

Farmland as it appears looking along Route 27 toward park. Loveland road at right.

Drainage Canal

This canal is to drain a glade about 3 miles east of park. Drainage is to southeast.

Looking S.W. Toward Canal

Canal is light area in distance.

Land Clearing Near Boundary

Both sides of highway from near entrance have been cleared. So far this is 3.7 miles on north and 3.4 miles on south of road.

File

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
June 1955

Weather Conditions: Torrential rains during the latter half of June ended the long drouth that began last December. The total average rainfall for the month was 11.68 inches. The rather abrupt change from extreme dryness to inundation in the gladeland is well illustrated by the following comment taken from Ranger Winte's report.

> "On June 7, I travelled by glades buggy to water gauging station P-34, 11 miles due south of the Loop Road. The glades were drier and dustier than I had observed for many years. These factors coupled with the day's heat made the long day's trip a most uncomfortable one. Approximately two weeks later the same trip could be made by airboat."

Driest in park history, the past winter and spring produced one of the most critical fire seasons since the park's inception. However, the delightful weather accounted for the greatest visitation to the park yet recorded for the period January through June.

Readings from stations follow:

	Max Temp	Mean Max	Min Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm Station	94°	88.2°	58°	68.4°	12.06"
Coot Bay Station	91°	87.9°	63°	70.9°	14.03"
Tamiami Station	96°	90.8°	60°	70.3°	9.77"
Florida Bay Station	93°	87.3°	70°	76.5°	10.81"

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: Plans for Project 1A2-6A1, main park road from Flamingo to West Lake were completed and the project was advertized for bids to be opened July 8.

A preliminary plan was completed to increase visitor accommodations at Royal Palm Station. The plan relates to changes in road location and reflects new thoughts developed through experience.

Study was initiated for revision of the Flamingo layout plans made necessary by the deletion of public housing and introduction of Service and concessioner housing at a new location.

Drawings and specifications were completed for a work boat to be used by maintenance crews.

Cooperating Government Agencies: The navigation light at the mouth of Little Shark River went out twice during the month. U. S. Coast Guard personnel were taken to the light on June 15 and July 2 by the District Ranger in order to make the necessary repairs.

Protection personnel participated in a Ground Observer Corps exercise on June 4. During the exercise, 33 telephone calls, resulting from 34 aircraft observations, were made to the Miami Air Defense Filter Center.

Interpretive Service: The Royal Palm Ranger Station was manned by the naturalist on all four Sundays during the month. Visitation during those days numbered 1,208. On June 12, an experimental talk given to bus passengers from Miami was inaugurated. Upon arrival, passengers are directed through the Royal Palm Ranger Station and seated on the benches facing the pond. A short orientation talk based on the Park's ecology has been presented with considerable success. For the three talks given in June, participation averaged 64. It is felt that a continuation of these experimental talks is desirable, as they will help develop a series of orientation talks for next winter.

Off the area talks this month were reduced to a single talk to an evening group of the local Presbyterian church--104 were in attendance. Thus only 1,312 interpretive contacts were made during the month of June. There were 15,610 park visitors.

Natural History: As the rainy season developed and the glades filled with water, the wildlife began to diffuse. Up along Tamiami Trail in the cypress country the "show" was good. Duck Rock began operations and Audubon Society Tours to this famous roost started. Two 'gators, "Bozo" and "Shorty", bigger and fatter than ever appeared at Coot Bay Pond with the fresh water.

The crocodile nest noted in last month's report was revisited on June 19. Signs indicated that an adult crocodile had crawled over and around the nest since the last visit. There were no indications that any of the eggs had hatched.

Travel: Park travel was higher than during any previous June. There were 15,610 visitors, a 61% increase over the corresponding month last year. All states but seven were represented, as well as Alaska and Puerto Rico, three Canadian provinces, and seven foreign countries.

Ranger Service: Eleven Fire Control Aids were released during the period June 18 through 25 following substantial rains with resulting inundation of much of the park.

Protection personnel continued early morning and night boat patrols, extending over the Gulf of Mexico, Florida Bay, Broad, Rodgers, and Shark Rivers, West Lake, the Lungs, and Alligator Creek. Quite a number of contacts were made during these patrols with fishermen and others, including a couple of poacher suspects, but so far, no one has been apprehended for violating the Service regulations. The salutary effect of the patrols is believed excellent and word has gotten abroad that the rangers are showing up at odd places in the park during unheard of hours.

Patrol mileage for June was as follows:

Car	5,079
Boat	2,994
Airboat	78
Glades buggy	42
Total ----	8,193

Police Protection: A preliminary hearing before U. S. Commissioner Hodson was conducted in the John W. Russell speeding case, mentioned in earlier reports. Russell was bound over to Federal Court for trial.

Two other persons were tried before the U. S. Commissioner for traffic violation with conviction resulting in each instance.

Forest Fire Control: There were two fires during the month. One of incendiary origin, believed started by alligator poachers, burned fifty acres on Indian Camp Creek. The other fire, smoker caused, threatened but did not enter the park.

Fire equipment was being worked over and painted in preparation for storage during the summer months. Tamiami's mechanized equipment was taken to Royal Palm to be garaged until the next fire season.

A survey was made to properly locate the 7-Mile Fire Tower. This tower is erroneously spotted on the park's base map, a fact noted when several lookout observations this past season proved inaccurate.

The Seminole Indians from Jimmy Tiger's Village suppressed a wildfire with swatters and backpack pumps just north of the Tamiami Trail. Ranger Winte reports that this is the first instance in which he has seen Indians active in suppressing a glades fire. Winte believes that our fire prevention work is beginning to have an effect on the tribe.

Accidents: Three motor vehicle accidents occurred involving a single car in each instance. Property damage was slight and one passenger received minor injuries.

Public Health: George Carley, Assistant District Engineer from the Atlanta office of the U. S. Public Health Service, visited the Park on an inspection trip. We reviewed the last U. S. Public Health Service's report and the corrections taken, and then made an inspection of the Park sanitary facilities with him. We have not received a report from him on the inspection yet.

At Pine Island the chlorinator was put in operation in the water system and daily tests of the residual chlorine were taken.

Specifications were written for well drilling at the Tamiami and 7-Mile Tower and two chlorinators were requisitioned in preparation for the improvement of water facilities.

Water tanks, a pump, and plumbing fixtures were ordered in preparation for the improvement of the water facilities at Lostman's River Patrol Station. Monthly biological analysis of the Park drinking water is continuing.

Commercial Fishing: District Ranger Bean reports commercial fishing slow in Florida Bay. Approximately 12 fishermen (6 fishing for silver mullet and 6 for trout) are the only ones active. The black mullet crew at Rankin and Dump Keys left early in the month.

Fishing guides in the Islamorada area state business is good. The guides are concentrated on tarpon fishing about Arsenicker Key. A heavy infestation of sharks reportedly has reduced the catch.

Natural History Association: The June issue of Everglades Natural History magazine came off the press and was sent to subscribers. Since this publication has, for financial reasons, been suspended with the June issue, notices were included with each copy, informing subscribers of the action taken. An effort to meet the Association's obligation to subscribers was made by offering them three choices: A return of half the subscription price, a free copy of the first of a series of occasional bulletins published, or the privilege of making a contribution of the remaining portion of their subscription payment. Interestingly, more than one-half of the subscribers that have replied have indicated a desire to donate. Only two of the subscribers to date have demanded a refund of their money.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

BULKHEAD CONTRACT MARINA FLAMINGO

BORING FOR PILES
showing method used
to align and bore for
concrete bulkhead piles.

SETTING PILES
Dragline shown placing
concrete piles for
driving.

PILE DRIVING OPERATION
Using heavy wooden "head,"
concrete pile is being
driven in hole previously
bored.

File

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK JULY 1955

Weather Conditions: Weather was typical for the month of July--hot and humid. Rainfall was somewhat less than last month, 11.66" (Park average), but within normal limits for July. Showers built up out over the glades nearly every afternoon to keep water levels up everywhere.

	Max. Temp	Mean Max	Min. Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm Station	90°	87.3°	69°	75.6°	7.14"
Coot Bay Station	92°	88.0°	71°	73.0°	5.53"
Tamiami Station	96°	90.2°	63°	73.3°	6.58"
Florida Bay Station	91°	85.3°	68°	71.2°	7.56"

Complaints: District Ranger McDowell reports the usual summer complaints on the register: "mosquitoes, no gators, no one at home, poor road, etc."

These complaints are more numerous this summer with the increase in visitation to the Park. Ranger and naturalist personnel spent as much time as possible at Royal Palm Ranger Station and making contacts with tourists along the road.

Cooperating Government Agencies: Protection personnel from the Cape Sable District assisted the U. S. Coast Guard again this month in servicing the Inter-Coastal light at the mouth of the Shark River.

The Florida Bay District participated in a Ground Observer Corps exercise on the 9th of the month. Other Stations were not called upon during this alert.

Interpretive Service: The Royal Palm Ranger Station was manned by the Naturalist all five Sundays during the month, with an average per Sunday of 2,163 visitors present. Talks to the arriving bus groups were continued. Five talks were given to a total of 514 visitors. These talks seem to go over well.

Two talks were given to special groups outside the Park. On Thursday, July 28, the Park Naturalist spoke to an audience of

347 at the Miami Rotary Club. On July 29, the Naturalist gave a talk and showed a film to 65 members of the Chicago Club at the Redland Fruit and Vegetable Center. Thus the Naturalist Department made 3,089 direct interpretive contacts among the Park's 17,661 visitors for July, and 926 listened to a talk. No figure for self-use devices and self-guiding trails is available.

Commercial and Sports Fishing: District Ranger Bean reports that the commercial fishing in Florida Bay continued slow during the month. He noted that in general the type of fishing in the Bay is changing.

> "There has been a noticeable change in the type of fishing being done in Florida Bay in the three years that I have been assigned to the district. The change has been in less commercial fishing and more sports fishing. The latter is particularly noticeable in the southern portion of the district and along Nine Mile Bank which prior to the advent of large numbers of 25-horsepower outboard motors was fished chiefly by guides with parties brought out in inboard cruisers towing skiffs from which the fishing was done. Today, a large part of the sports-fishermen, particularly on weekends, come in their own outboard powered craft. Freeing of the Overseas Highway from tolls south of Lower Matecumbe Key may have also had some effect on sports fishing pressure in this area. Another aspect of the situation is the turning of many commercial fishermen from fishing to employment with a more steady income."

Increase or Decrease in Travel: During July 17,661 visitors entered the Park. This is an increase of 2,896 (or 19.61%) over last July and is a record high for any summer month. All states were represented except Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming. Other countries included Hawaii, Canada, Guatemala, Jamaica, Cuba, Brazil, England, Germany, Italy, Thailand, and Australia.

This is a noteworthy trend. Packaged tours, pay later vacations, family air rates, etc., are causing a summer tourist season in the Miami area which did not exist a few years ago. The Park is totally unprepared for this sort of thing being geared to a winter season operation.

Ranger Service: The following patrol mileage was recorded during July:

	Auto	Boat	Airboat	Tractor
Royal Palm	1,075			16
Coot Bay	1,282	1,982		
Tamiami	668			
Florida Bay	710	438		
	3,735	2,420		16

Ranger activities consisted of routine patrols and maintenance of equipment for the most part. There was considerable shifting of personnel from one district to another in an attempt to adequately cover the Park while rangers were taking annual leave.

Accidents: Three accidents occurred in the Park during July. Two of them were single car accidents in which there were no injuries or tangible damage to the vehicles.

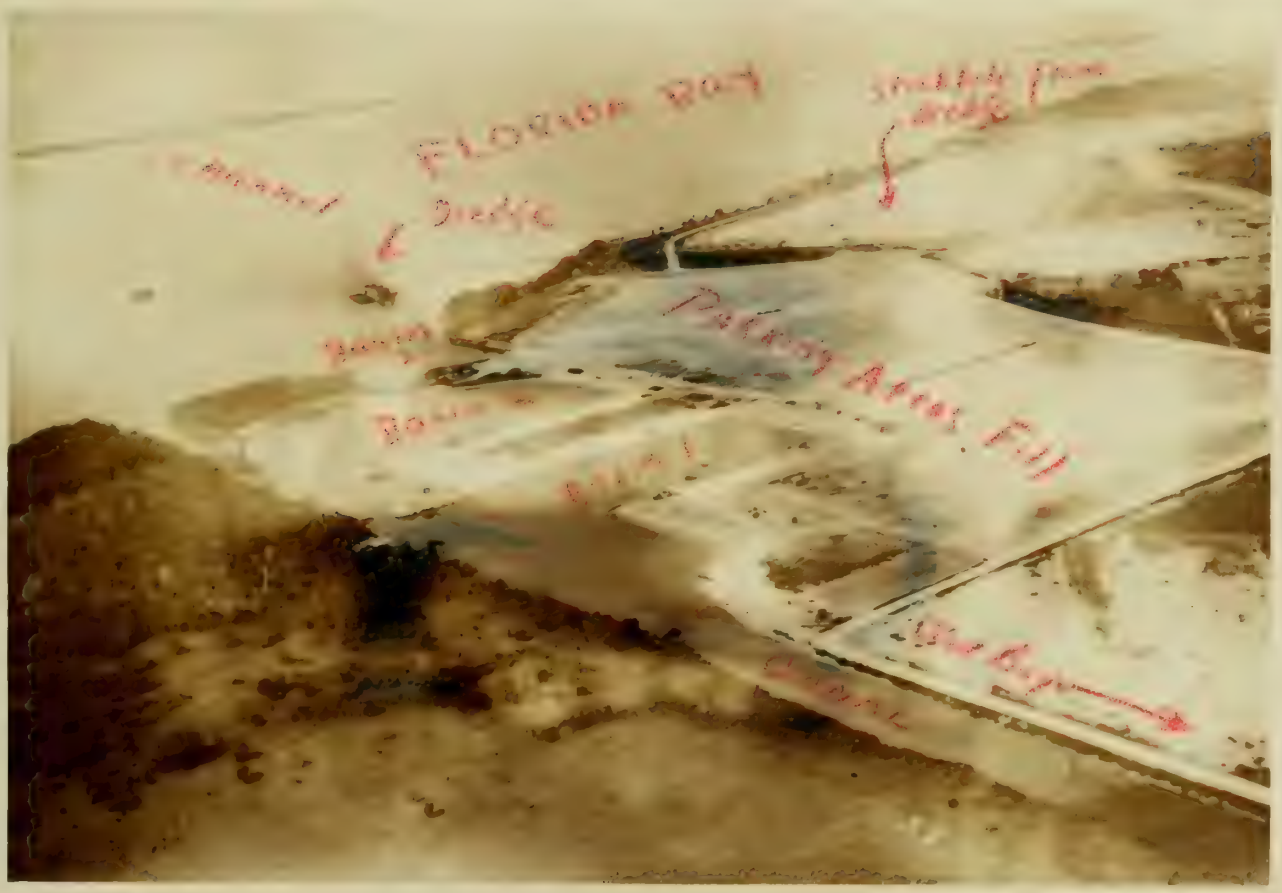
The third accident was a collision of two cars and occurred about two miles north of Coot Bay on the 4th of July. A car, driven by Mrs. Sammie Crow of Miami, rammed the rear of a car driven by Mr. Harold Axtell of Buffalo, New York. The Axtell car overturned and Mrs. Axtell suffered a deep cut on her right foot. She was treated in the Homestead Hospital. Both drivers were charged with reckless driving and cited to appear before the U. S. Commissioner. Mr. Axtell was cleared of the charge while Mrs. Crow was found guilty and fined $35.

Oil Exploration: District Ranger Winte reports the oil well at 40-Mile Bend has not been operating, because of mechanical difficulties, for the last three weeks. It was producing about 27 barrels per day at the time. The Jimmie Tiger Well is pumping 35 barrels per day at the present time. The production on both of these wells seems to be going downhill.

Reports are that the Gulf Oil Company is having trouble with their drilling operations at their offshore well near Sandy Key. They are now on their third try and are down about 3,000 feet. It seems that the hole keeps caving in when they try to remove the drill casing.

Paul N. Heaton
Acting Superintendent

AIRVIEW OFF FLAMINGO



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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
~~September~~ 1955
August

Weather Conditions: During the month, hurricanes "Connie" and "Diane" slipped past Florida, entering the mainland on the Carolina Coast. According to the U. S. Weather Bureau, these storms created warm winds locally, resulting in the highest temperature (99°) in park history. Precipitation for the park averaged 3.83 inches, considerably less than the 5.63 inches during August 1954 and the park average of 7.68 inches for the corresponding month, covering the 7-year period 1948-1954.

The ground water level continued to drop. District Ranger Winte reported airboat patrol from the Tamiami Ranger Station could not be made, a condition unusual for this season of the year.

Readings from Stations follow:

	Max. Temp	Mean Max	Min. Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm Station	97°	92.30°	68°	72.8°	4.16"
Coot Bay Station	95°	91.00°	69°	74.9°	3.08"
Tamiami Station	99°	93.16°	71°	74.23°	3.32"
Florida Bay Station	92°	89.90°	73°	78.6°	4.76"

Inspections:

Raymond Mulvany, Administrative Officer, Region One

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: The Superintendent, Landscape Architect, and Engineer spent most of their time in August working on MISSION 66.

Project 1A5, Main Park Road from West Lake to Nine-Mile Bend, was submitted by the Bureau of Public Roads in plan form with engineer's estimate and draft of contract.

General Publicity: Closure of the park road on August 29 was announced in local and Miami newspapers and over the Miami radio. Appropriate signs calling attention to the closure were placed at strategic points within the park and at Florida City, entranceway to the park area via State Route 27.

A gate was erected across the park road at the west side of the "Hole-in-the-Donut."

Construction: On Project 1A1, Dredging and Stockpiling of Oolite Borrow, Flamingo, the contractor had pumped approximately 210,000 cubic yards of oolite ashore.

Bulkheading at Flamingo (Contract 14-10-111-43) was proceeding all right although it appeared that the contractor's time schedule was a little behind. Basin No. 1 was nearing completion with only coping to be finished and some work at the gas dispensing area. Most concrete pilings were in and the back piles had been driven in Basin No. 2.

Cooperating Government Agencies: Protection personnel participated in the Ground Observer Corps exercise "Skytrain VI" on August 7.

Park Ranger Parker cooperated with State officials of the Saltwater Fisheries Division in an effort to curtail suspected stopnetting activities, chiefly north of the Lostman's River Area.

Cooperating Non-Government Agencies: Penn State Geologist Ed Koppe, engaged in work sponsored by the AEC, spent a day each with District Rangers Winke and Senne. Peat samples were taken in the Tamiami and Cape Sable District. Sampling at Jewfish Point in the Cape Sable area brought forth freshwater snail shells and cypress fragments from a depth of 12 feet.

Interpretive Service: An illustrated talk on Everglades National Park was given at the Region One Office by Chief Ranger Campbell while vacationing in Richmond; Ranger Senne gave a similar talk on Acadia National Park to dredge workers and concession employees at the Coot Bay snack bar.

The Naturalist manned the Royal Palm Ranger Station on Sundays during the month of August. During those three days, 1,129 visitors were at the station.

Four talks, too, were given at the Royal Palm Station to 318 visitors and two talks were given to Rotary Clubs in the area. A talk was given to the North Miami Club on Wednesday, August 24, and another given to the Miami Beach Club on August 30--attendance 71 and 74, respectively. Assistant Superintendent Fry gave a slide talk to a group of 31 members of the Ephrata Grange at Lincoln, Pennsylvania, on August 15.

Some work was begun on trail exhibit devices. A label holder and a specimen of a label have been placed outside to see how weather conditions will affect them. A prototype of a self-closing easel type exhibit case was constructed.

The Naturalist spent four days on a trip to Fort Jefferson National Monument to get acquainted with the area and make preliminary studies of the natural history interpretive possibilities.

The first results of the newly inaugurated observation system have begun to come in. Several interesting records have come in also.

Natural History: The crocodile nest at Trout Creek mentioned in previous reports was visited on August 8. The eggs had hatched since the last inspection on July 19, remains of 8 eggshells being found.

District Ranger Bean reported brown pelicans, well feathered-out, on several nests at Cowpens Cut, and white-crowned pigeons on several keys off Tavernier.

An eight-foot crocodile took up residence in the No. 2 boat basin at Flamingo, much to the displeasure of the men working in the water on the piling. Ranger Senne reported seeing a 12-foot crocodile south of Coot Bay. In addition, the Cape Sable Protection Personnel reported observing alligators; many spoonbills in the vicinity of Middle Cape Canal; manatee in the Labyrinth, Watson and Lake Rivers; large flocks of ducks and black-necked stilts at Bear Lake; and deer near Coot Bay. An 8-foot alligator was found dead in the canal between West Lake and Nine-Mile Bend, presumably hit by a car.

The great white heron that lives in the vicinity of the Royal Palm Ranger Station most of the year returned to that area toward the close of the month after several weeks' absence. This heron is probably the most photographed bird in the park, taking particular delight in posing for visitors. He (or she) was once in Life and has worked for Walt Disney. Ranger McDowell also reported a small flock of white ibis and a few Louisiana and little blue herons in the vicinity of the Long Pine Key Road, Royal Palm Ranger District.

It would appear that the wildlife is beginning to return home for its winter "show."

Travel: Park travel (17,919 visitors) was 39.2% higher than in August 1954. This is the greatest number of visitors for any summer month since the park's establishment, surpassing last month's high of 17,661. All states except 12 were represented, in addition to Hawaii and Puerto Rico, three Canadian provinces, and 13 foreign countries.

Ranger Service: During the month Chief Ranger Campbell was absent on annual leave, District Ranger McDowell had two weeks military leave, and Fire Control Aid Shilts was off on sick leave for 3 weeks. Shilts had a successful ear operation.

Maintenance of equipment, daily patrols, and boundary marking occupied much of the rangers' time. In preparation for exchanging districts on August 27, Rangers Bean and Mrazek made several mutual patrols.

A successful search and rescue was conducted by Rangers Mrazek and Senne who located 3 sport fishermen that had spent the night at Cormorant Point because of outboard motor trouble. The men were found in good physical condition except for insect bites.

Patrol mileage for August was as follows:

Car		4,876
Boat		2,623
Airboat		108
	Total	7,607

Police Protection: Privately-owned airplanes have been seen flying over the park south of the Loop Road and in the vicinity of the "Hole-in-the-Donut," apparently spotting wildlife in preparation for the forthcoming hunting season. The rangers are working with State Wilflife Officers to prevent poaching.

Forest Fire Control: Two fires, presumably caused by lightning, were observed in the Cape Sable District during the month. Both fires were inaccessible, one located near the headwaters of the Broad River and the other near Fox Lakes. Of indeterminate size, both fires were rained out.

Accidents: Two minor motor vehicle accidents occurred during the month, neither one resulting in personal injuries.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

File

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
September 1955

Weather Conditions: This past month provided typical September weather. Temperatures were about normal and precipitation for the park averaged 7.51 inches, about equal to the September mean of 8.02 inches.

Hurricanes Hilda, Janet, and Ione, starting in the Caribbean, did not threaten Florida. The two former smashed into Yucatan and the latter swept into Cape Hatteras. In spite of the recent trend, the park hurricane warning plan remains in readiness.

Conditions continue to be drier than normal. From January first to date the precipitation departure for the park is minus 7.19 inches. It is still not possible to operate an airboat from the Tamiami Ranger Station as the surface water remains below normal.

Station readings are as follows:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Station	92°	89.0°	67°	71.9°	8.30"
Coot Bay Station	92°	89.8°	70°	74.3°	6.39"
Tamiami Station	94°	90.6°	72°	74.27°	10.40"
Florida Bay Station	90°	87.9°	73°	77.5°	4.94"

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: The route of Gumbo Limbo Trail was planned slightly differently to permit better interpretation. Work on the trail will begin next month.

Park road project 1A5, West Lake to Nine Mile Bend, was approved and will be advertised for bids to be opened on October 28.

Maintenance: The park shop was busy all month on the following projects: repair of two power plants; alteration on glades buggy; repair of outboard motors; installation of mobile radio; annual repair and refinishing of two airboats; wooding down and repainting inboard boat 11-215; and straightening with reinforcement on lowboy trailer. The park dragline was steam cleaned and painted.

Road work included blading of Ingraham Highway with some patching work to beginning of road construction. A chlorinator was installed at Royal Palm Station and inspection pipes were placed in all Pine Island septic tanks. Over 500 seagrape and coconut seedlings were put out in the temporary Rowdy Bend nursery for later use at Flamingo. An oil storage building was set at Tamiami Station.

Construction: Project 1A1 (Contract 14-10-0100-439), Dredging and Stockpiling Oolite Borrow and Other Work near Flamingo. This was about 40% complete. Brinson Construction Company encountered delays on delivery of a new especially designed cutter head for their dredge. When delivered, it is expected to speed operations considerably.

Project 1A2-6A1 (Contract 14-10-0100-546), Construction of Main Park Road from Flamingo to West Lake Vicinity. The contractor began some minor work but rains delayed full scale operations.

Contract 14-10-111-43, Boat Basin, Piers, Bulkheading and Filling - Flamingo. This project was 62% complete. Basin One was about finished with bulkhead, backfill, and most of the coping in place. Piling was being driven and some in place in Basin Two.

Approaches to Park Areas: In the "Hole-in-the-Donut" on Long Pine Key, the Iori Brothers are constructing a labor camp that will house approximately 165 men. The development includes a dormitory, storage building, and commissary.

Cooperating Government Agencies: Protection personnel participated in 5 Ground Observer Corps exercises during the month.

Dr. L. F. Conover, U. S. Weather Bureau Meteorologist, stationed at the University of Miami, contacted the Chief Ranger regarding park cooperation in the current hurricane study being made by the Weather Bureau. Dr. Conover was interested in the data secured from our 5 surface water stations.

Mr. R. W. Pinder, technician from the U. S. Weather Bureau Office in Miami, visited the park twice during the month to correct deficiencies in the Bureau's automatic wind recorder at Flamingo. This recorder serves as an important link in the hurricane warning system for south Florida. Engineer Shenker, Ranger Senne, and Mr. Cates of the Bureau of Public Roads cooperated with Mr. Pinder. According to Pinder, this automatic recorder is one of the two of its kind in the United States.

The Chief Ranger attended the Federal Safety County meeting in the Pan American Bank Building in Miami on September 1.

Interpretation: The Naturalist manned the Royal Palm Ranger Station each of the 4 Sundays during the month. Attendance during the 4 days was a total of 1,357 visitors. A talk was given each day. The total attendance was 339. Two special evening talks were given. A talk on "Conservation in National Parks" was given to a group of 33 Princeton Boy Scouts on September 29. On September 30 an illustrated slide talk was given to workmen at Coot Bay.

A let-up in the mosquito infection made trails in the park more useful. Nearly half of the Royal Palm visitors made use of the Gumbo Limbo Trail.

Illustrated talks were given by Ranger Senne and the Naturalist at Coot Bay to acquaint construction crews working in the area with Service programs, policies, and areas.

Travel: A total of 10,445 persons visited the park during the month, an increase of 10.5% over September 1954, a continuation of the current upward trend in park visitation. The reduction from last month was a marked 40.7% due in part to the normal drop experienced each year at this time and to the current closing of the park below Station 3. All states, except nine, were represented in addition to 5 Canadian provinces and 13 foreign countries.

Visitors: Mr. Denys Wilkinson, atomic scientist, ornithologist, and university professor, Cambridge, England.

Mr. Peter Margosian of the Moody Institute of Science started photographic work in the park.

Dr. Francois Vaillant of the University of Algiers visited the park on September 28.

Superintendent and Mrs. H. Hubler of San Juan National Historic Site.

Ranger Service: Early morning patrols, resulting in the issuance of several courtesy tickets, were made in connection with closing the Cape Sable District in order to prevent unauthorized entry beyond the road gate.

Some difficulty was experienced with employees of R. H. Wright and Sons, contractors currently building the park road, in adhering to park speed limits.

Patrol mileage is shown below:

Car	4,383
Boat	718
Airboat	303
Glades Buggy	26
Total - - - -	5,430

Forest and Building Fire Control: Oscar Patton, a charter boatman, left a glass jug (filled with water) on the seat of his skiff. The brilliant Florida sun shone through the jug to set a nearby boat cushion afire. Fortunately Ranger Barney Parker passed the skiff at this time, suppressing the fire that otherwise might have been serious as the boat was tied up at the concession dock at Coot Bay.

Accidents: One automobile accident occurred at night when the driver ran into a truck parked at the gate, closing off the park. The car was completely wrecked and the driver suffered minor injury.

Three contractor employees experienced minor injuries during the month.

Public Health: Five trailers owned by employees of R. H. Wright and Sons are currently parked at the former Flamingo picnic area. The occupants of these trailers, with others expected, present a sanitation problem. Mr. Frazier, Florida Board of Health, was contracted in this regard and is to review the situation with us on October 5.

Personnel: Assistant Chief Ranger Ralph D. Maxwell was transferred to the position of Chief Ranger at Mammoth Cave National Park.

A son, Michael Phillip, joined the family of District Ranger and Mrs. Bean on September 20.

Daniel B. Beard
Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent.

File

Summary of the October 1955 Monthly Narrative Report
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

		Page
WEATHER CONDITIONS:	Dry October. Rainfall much below average for park.	1
INSPECTIONS:	Director Wirth and Regional Director Cox of Region One visited the park.	
PUBLIC RELATIONS:	Meeting attended by National Park Service officials and Florida State officials on Everglades National Park. Dade County Airboat Association meeting attended by Ranger Winte.	1
MAINTENANCE:	Repair in readiness for "season"	2
CONSTRUCTION:	Gumbo Limbo Trail improved. Flamingo bulkheading contract 70% complete. Bids taken for road contract 1A5. Project 1A1 57% complete. Project 1A2-6A1 given notice to proceed.	
CONCESSIONERS:	Snack Bar at Coot Bay closed. Audubon Wildlife Tours to visit Royal Palm area in winter program.	2
COOPERATING GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES:	Proposed Memorandum of Understanding between U. S. Coast Guard and Everglades National Park. Cooperated with State Saltwater Fisheries Division to stop alleged stop netting. Federal Safety Council meeting attended by Chief Ranger. Ranger Winte accompanied U. S. Border Patrolmen in airplane flight over park. Protection personnel participated in Ground Observer Corps exercises.	2
INTERPRETIVE SERVICE:	Sunday afternoon talks continued success. Improved Gumbo Limbo Trail brought about noticeable increase in its use by visitors.	3

		Page
NATURAL HISTORY:	Birds beginning to return to park. Grass removed from pond at Royal Palm. Lower water level concentrates birds.	3
TRAVEL:	Increase of 27.3% visitation over October 1954.	3
VISITS:	Fred Packard of National Parks Association and Dr. Hoffmann, Swiss ornithologist	3
RANGER SERVICE:	Established tent quarters in Tamiami District to guard against poaching for 3 months. Few commercial fishermen in evidence during month.	4
LAW ENFORCEMENT:	Bookcase at Royal Palm broken into. 3 stranded boats rescued.	4
FIRE CONTROL:	Letter mailed to park neighbors. Fire equipment rehabilitated.	5
ACCIDENTS:	Six personal injuries. Four motor vehicle accidents.	5
PUBLIC HEALTH:	Recommendations on sanitation for contractors' employees made by P.H.S. men to Superintendent.	5
OIL:Q	Gulf Oil Co. will start refilling excavations at the dry holes in the park.	5
PERSONNEL:	Two promotions and two reassignments. Show-me trip for office group.	5

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERI
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
October 1955

Weather Conditions: October was a beautiful month--too beautiful. The weather continued comparatively dry with only an average of 2.66 inches of rainfall recorded for the park. This is considerably below the park average of 6.71 inches for October. Total park precipitation departure for the calendar year to date is minus 11.24 inches. To further emphasize the current dry spell, the water gage at Taylor Slough on October 31 read the same as it did on December 15 last year. In the Tamiami District, the surface water table is so low that airboat travel is prohibited except in the Shark River Valley, a condition unusual for this time of year.

Station readings were as follows:

	Max. Temp	Mean Max	Min. Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm Station	89°	84.4°	53°	64.7°	1.95"
Coot Bay Station	91°	85.4°	59°	67.9°	1.39"
Tamiami Station	92°	85.2°	60°	68.1°	2.32"
Florida Bay Station	87°	82.8°	59°	70.9°	4.97"

Inspections: Director Conrad L. Wirth and Regional Director Elbert Cox, Region One, inspected the park on October 8, traveling by airboat from the 7-Mile Tower to Banana Patch and thence by cruiser to Coot Bay. The balance of the day was spent at Flamingo reviewing current construction activities.

Public Relations: A meeting was held in the office of John D. Pennekamp, Associate Editor of the Miami Herald. It was attended by Governor Collins, Senators Holland and Smathers, Congressman Fascell, State Senator Gautier, Director Wirth, Regional Director Cox, Superintendent Beard, Assistant Superintendent Fry, and concessions' manager Knight. Discussions revolved around overnight housing at Flamingo (the Director reaffirmed the Service's decision to have none at present, at least) and plans for completion of the park boundaries.

District Ranger Winte attended the Dade County Airboat Association meeting in Miami on October 30. The Association, which does considerable airboat travel adjacent to the park boundaries in the vicinity of the Tamiami Trail, was asked to continue their good cooperation in preventing wild fires and in avoiding park trespass by airboat.

Maintenance: The park shop was busy all month getting ready for the "season" with emphasis upon repair of fire equipment, radios, ranger vehicles, and light plants.

Construction: Gumbo Limbo Trail was paved with plant mix. This has greatly improved the trail in appearance and usefulness. The job was well done and the narrow, winding woods trail character preserved.

The contract for bulkheading, etc., at Flamingo was about 70% complete by the end of October.

Bids for road contract 1A5 were opened October 28. Six bids were received with A B C Enterprises low at $318,488, and Blythe Brothers second at $434,860. No award was made. A B C Enterprises was being investigated for competence and because of their bid bond.

Project 1A1, dredging and stockpiling of oolite borrow at Flamingo was 57% complete.

Project 1A2-6A1 (Park Road, Flamingo to West Lake) was given notice to proceed October 7.

Concessioners: The snack bar at Coot Bay closed October 7 due to the small amount of business.

Audubon Wildlife Tours representatives met with the superintendent to work out a winter program. It was decided that tours would visit the Royal Palm area only (since road to Coot Bay is closed) and Florida Bay out of Tavernier.

Cooperating Governmental Agencies: The Chief Ranger contacted the U. S. Coast Guard in Miami concerning a proposed Memorandum of Understanding between that agency and Everglades National Park with respect to aids to navigation in the park. The discussion with Lieutenant Commander Burke and Mr. Demeritt of the Coast Guard resulted in a copy of the agreement being forwarded to the District Commander for his review and comments.

Park Ranger Parker cooperated with State officials of the Saltwater Fisheries Division to stop alleged stop netting activities in the Hog Key-Broad River section of the Gulf Coast. No arrests were made but the investigation should have a salutary effect on this illegal activity.

The Federal Safety Council meeting held in the Pan American Bank Building in Miami on October 6 was attended by the Chief Ranger. Plans were made with respect to subsequent programs and the election of officers.

District Ranger Winte accompanied U. S. Border Patrolmen in an airplane flight over Everglades National Park to check on possible immigration violations. At the same time Winte was able to observe whether illegal airboat and glades buggy travel had been made in the park, noting two such violations.

Park protection personnel participated in Ground Observer Corps exercises on October 2 and 3.

Interpretive Service: The Sunday afternoon talk given at the time of bus arrival was continued successfully. Five talks were given to 254 visitors. The Naturalist manned the Royal Palm Station on all five Sundays during the month. About 1,340 visitors were at the station during those five days. A very noticeable increase in the use of the Gumbo Limbo Trail occurred when the surfacing work was finished. Many favorable comments about the improvement were heard.

Considerable preliminary effort has been made on plans for the coming interpretive programs and devices. The Gumbo Limbo Trail has been surfaced; materials for labels have been secured. It is hoped that much of the labeling can be accomplished in the month of November.

Some thought has been directed toward the program at Everglades City. A full daily program there may be possible if the necessary transportation can be secured.

Natural History: As the surface water lowers in the glades, the wildlife concentrates in the sloughs and nearer to the mangrove. This gradual movement is apparently under way as Ranger Bean recently reported two alligators and an otter crossing Ingraham Highway in front of his vehicle.

Birds are beginning to return to the park according to the reports of all of the rangers. Ranger Mrazek counted 84 roseate spoonbills at nesting sites in Florida Bay, the largest number (32) at Stake Key. Ranger Senne notes that few birds were observed at East River or Cuthbert Lake rookeries but that many species, chiefly coots, egrets, ducks, and spoonbills are appearing in the district in increasing numbers.

During the month, the grass was removed from the pond at the Royal Palm Ranger Station in order to reduce the death of fish during the forthcoming winter season when stagnation reduces oxygen supply.

Travel: During the month, 12,117 persons visited the park, an increase of 27.3% over October 1954 and of 16% over September 1955. This continues the upward trend that has been noted every month this calendar year except for February. All states but eight were represented in addition to two Canadian provinces and ten foreign countries.

Visits:

Fred Packard, Executive Director, National Parks Association

Dr. Luc Hoffmann, Ornithologist, Switzerland

Ranger Service: The stone crab season opened October 15 with traps set at several locations in Blackwater Sound and around Rabbit and Twin Keys.

A few commercial fishermen were in evidence during the month, four silver mullet crews and several trout fishermen working in Florida Bay.

Tent quarters for two men were established near Iron Pot Hammock in the Tamiami District in order to guard against possible poaching during the next three months and to be nearer the area where fires are most likely to start during the corresponding period.

The rangers issued several courtesy tickets to those who entered the closed portion of the park without authority.

During October patrol mileage was as follows:

Car	4,495
Boat	2,498
Airboat	386
Glades buggy	45
Total	7,424

Law Enforcement: A dredge worker stole an automobile from a fellow employee but he was apprehended with the car before getting out of the park. At a meeting between the parties involved, an amiable agreement was reached with the result that the charges were dropped and the case was considered closed.

Mr. Van Bass, a commercial fisherman, was apprehended in Florida Bay fishing for silver mullet without a permit. The matter was settled in the Chief Ranger's office, Mr. Bass being issued a permit for the balance of the calendar year commencing November 5.

Assistant Chief Ranger McDowell and District Ranger Senne rescued three boats that were out of gas at the mouth of Little Shark River.

Albert C. Scroggins, a Hendry employee, was fined $15 (suspended) for driving without a license. The United States Commissioner gave him one month in which to obtain a driver's license.

The bookcase at the Royal Palm Ranger Station was broken into October 26, resulting in six books and a number of natural history magazines being stolen.

Fire Control: Fire equipment was rehabilitated. The lowboy trailer was straightened and redecked; one of the ramp beds was transferred from an old 1½-ton chassis to a newer chassis; the glades buggy assigned to the Tamiami District was redesigned with new decking and water tanks; the East Boundary Patrol pickup got a new water tank and a new Briggs-Stratton motor; and the power plant at the Long Pine Key Tower was overhauled. All park fire control equipment was repainted.

A letter was mailed to park neighbors along the East Boundary, thanking them for their past cooperation and requesting their continued assistance.

Accidents: There were six personal injuries involving dredge employees of the Hendry Corporation. Fortunately, none of the injuries was of a serious nature.

Four motor vehicle accidents occurred in the closed portion of the park. Employees of the Hendry Corporation were responsible in each instance. Considerable damage was done to the automobiles but no one suffered injury.

Public Health: Messrs. D. E. Frazier and L. F. Wesbrook, Florida Board of Health, made an inspection of the Flamingo area with District Ranger Bean and Mr. Shenker. Recommendations were submitted to the Superintendent by this group covering sanitation needs, requirements, and enforcement with respect to trailer use by contractors' employees.

Oil: Mr. H. B. Leetons of Gulf Oil Company conferred with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent relative to refilling test well excavated sites near Tamiami Station. It was agreed that this should be done in December. Mr. Leetons said that the two wells at the Trail (40-Mile Bend and across from Jimmy Tiger's camp) were costing around $6,000 per month to operate. He said they would close these wells soon as nonproductive. He also said that the tidewater well off Sandy Key (not in park) had already cost about one million dollars and they are just down to where cores can be taken. The work of refilling excavations at the dry holes in the park will cost Gulf around $10,000 or more, but Gulf will live up to its agreements on this, Leetons said.

The Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent were surprisingly unsympathetic to this tale of woe.

Personnel: During the month, Lyle H. McDowell was promoted to Assistant Chief Park Ranger from District Ranger at Royal Palm, and Supervisory Park Ranger Senne was promoted to District Ranger at Cape Sable from the assistant's position in the same district. District Ranger

Mrazek was transferred to Florida Bay from Cape Sable and District Ranger Bean to Royal Palm from Florida Bay.

On October 26 a "show-me" trip to Lostman's River Patrol Station was made by cruiser, the ladies of the office being guests. The cruise was made to the station via Whitewater Bay with return through Joe River.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

In reply refer to:
A2823

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
P. O. BOX 275
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

November 30, 1955

A2623

Memorandum

To: Division Heads and District Rangers

From: Acting Superintendent Fry

Subject: Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report - December

The most recent revision, Amendment No. 53, of Volume 15 Reports changes the Superintendent's monthly narrative report. The report has been revised to be more useful.

All employees responsible for the preparation of reports and who receive this memorandum shall follow the suggested topics that are listed herewith. Please note on the righthand border the persons responsible for reporting certain sections of the report.

The Superintendent has requested that the Chief Ranger, the Naturalist, the Landscape Architect, the Engineer, and the Assistant Superintendent, submit their reports one topic per page.

The Superintendent has also requested that the reports on the field be in his hands by the 5th of each month. The suggested topics in the new report form are as follow:

Suggested Topics

General

Weather Conditions: An outline of general or unusual conditions which may affect park travel or work is all that is required. Do not attach copies of Weather Bureau report forms.....Rangers

Increase or Decrease in Travel: Comment on travel trends and report amounts of admission, entrance, or automobile permit fees collected during month, if applicable.....Rangers

Visitors: Include influential or important persons....Rangers
Secretary

Special Activities: Report on important inspections and investigations other than those made by the local staff, travel by the official in charge, conferences, meetings, etc , not reportable under other activity headings.....All Staff Members

Miscellaneous: Note unusual and interesting happenings involving employees and members of their families.....All Staff Members

Administration

Personnel: Report appointments, transfers, promotions, and other personnel changes affecting permanent positions. Mention entrance on duty dates of key employees transferring from other areas, and items of unusual interest such as special recruiting problems, training activities, etc.....Assistant Superintendent

Safety and Health: Mention accidents involving visitors, Service employees, and equipment; health of visitors and employees. Details of minor accidents are not desired.....Rangers

Building Fire Protection: Report building fires, building fire hazard inspections, fire brigade organizations and training. .....Rangers

Sanitation: Mention important sanitation items, including water supply.....Engineer

Cooperative Activities

Boundary Adjustments: Mention any field studies, report preparation, engineering surveys, conferences with other agencies, or other pertinent actions relating to proposed boundary changes. .....Engineer

Proposed Park Areas: Mention any field studies, discussions with other agencies or individuals, and newspaper and other comments on proposed park or recreation areas located near the reporting area. .....Superintendent

Cooperation with Other Federal, State, or Local Agencies: Mention consultative and advisory assistance furnished to other Federal, State, county, metropolitan, or municipal agencies concerning their recreation areas, facilities, and programs, and cooperative services rendered by other agencies.....All Staff Members

Cooperating Non-Governmental Agencies: Mention work done by or for private organizations, associations, or societies. Include donations and accessions, other than Museum material. Only items of major importance should be mentioned.....All Staff Members

State, County, or Municipal Legislation: Resolutions, memorials to Congress, etc., passed by State Legislatures or other local actions taken affecting the reporting area.....Superintendent

Interpretive Activities and Developments

Interpretive Facilities (including museum activities and exhibits): Report completion and important progress on museum construction and exhibit plans; installation or revision of permanent or temporary displays, trailside exhibits, exhibits in place, and special exhibits.....Naturalist

Interpretive Services: Summarize the services rendered by conducted trips, talks, and at information stations and museum facilities.....Naturalist

General Publicity: Important local press items relating to the area should be mentioned. Do not include copies of press releases and nature notes already sent to the Director or the Regional Director.....Superintendent Naturalist

Public Relations: Cover activities specifically intended to retain or create friendly and favorable attitudes toward area or Service.....All Staff Members

Research and Observations: Enumerate observations, events, and important research projects in fields of biology, history, etc. Do not include check lists, censuses, or other details that should be submitted in special reports.....Naturalist

Operations

Status of Private Lands: Include only important changes or negotiations concerning private lands with the park boundaries. .....Superintendent

Protection and Ranger Service: Mention important facts concerned with protection of the area, its visitors, and its property. Comment regarding public visitation, special events of note, ranger activities, rescue and search situations, and unusual law enforcement matters.....Rangers

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities: Report activities relating to wildlife management and fish culture.....Naturalist
Rangers

Maintenance: It is not necessary to recite minor or routine details. Include soil and moisture activities.....Garage Foreman
C & M
Supervisor

Concessioners: Indicate important changes, trends, lack of accommodations, new service, and status of concessioners' approved projects.....Superintendent

Complaints: Enumerate complaints against the concessioners and National Park Service. State action taken by officials in charge to investigate complaints.....Rangers

Forest Fire Protection: Report fire hazard conditions and items of special interest relating to fire prevention, presuppression, and suppression.....Rangers

Insects and Tree Diseases: Report studies and surveys under way, control operations of importance, special tree preservation activities, including campground protection and studies.....Rangers

Design and Construction
(Start on Separate Page)

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: Report activities of technical personnel, resident or assigned, relating to PCP's, Master Plans, road, boundary, or other surveys, including progress on projects.
.....Engineer
Landscape
Architect

New Construction: Report progress on all projects. A realistic statement of work to date should be made, i.e., foundation for bridge completed, right-of-way cleared, culverts in place, and first three miles of grading completed. Account for any unusual delays. Include forecast of whether all funds allotted to a project will be obligated before the end of the fiscal year or whether carry-over balances may be anticipated. Establish a completion date and state whether the project will be completed within the established completion date. If no construction is in progress or programmed, so indicate. If the work is to be done by contract and not under way, indicate the date bids will be circulated and opened. The above information on new construction should include concessioners' construction projects.

This material has been consolidated with Report 7m5 and should be reported on Forms 10-771 and 10-24 and attached to the Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report. These instructions will be included in the Reports Part of the National Park Service Administrative Manual.
.....Engineer
Landscape
Architect

Utilities: Include statement (where applicable) as to action taken and current status of negotiations for obtaining more adequate utility services such as telephone, radio, electric power, etc., on a leased service basis from commercial companies.....Engineer
Landscape
Architect

Conferences and Meetings: When attendance at conferences or meetings relating to Design and Construction activities is reported, include names and titles of those in attendance, purpose of conference, recommendations made, and conclusions or action taken.

Additional copies of the Design and Construction portion of the Superintendents' Monthly Narrative Report, both narrative material and Forms 10-771 and 10-24, should be mailed directly to: Regional Director, appropriate Field Design Office, and Washington Office (2 copies) marked for Branch of Programs and Plans Control and Division of Design and Construction.....Engineer
Staff

Files

Summary of the November 1955 Monthly Narrative Report for EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

A2823

		Page
WEATHER:	Low water table most critical since 1944-1945 fire season.	1
INCREASE IN TRAVEL:	4.5% increase over November 1954.	1
VISITORS:	Dr. and Mrs. Craighead, General Rock, and Ted Williams	2
PERSONNEL:	There were several personnel changes this month.	2
BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:	Aerial photographs made of the country from Ten Thousand Islands to Lostman's River. Collaborator Manly and the Superintendent met with Fred Elliott to work out boundary.	2
INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES:	Prepared new labels, planned texts, and developed new devices for Gumbo Limbo Trail.	2
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:	2,665 visitors contacted by naturalist staff at Royal Palm Station. A number of other people were contacted by talks given by the naturalists.	3
RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:	Taylor Slough show building up. Roseate spoonbills incubating. Alligator population at headwaters of rivers building up. East River and Cuthbert rookeries began to form at end of month.	3
OIL EXPLORATION:	Offshore exploratory well west of park's boundary near Sandy Key a "duster." Oil fever in area finally starting to subside.	3
PROTECTION AND RANGER SERVICE:	Hunting season began. Tent quarters for two rangers established near Iron Pot Hammock to patrol area. Hunting situation in "Hole-in-the-Donut" improved by farmers posting "No Hunting" signs on their lands. Rangers continue to have difficulty with construction workers to speed on park road.	4
MAINTENANCE:	Repair and changes began at Lostman's River Station.	4
CONCESSIONERS:	Audubon Wildlife Tours began in Florida Bay area. Conference with directors of Everglades Park Co. attended by Superintendent.	4

		Park Page
FOREST FIRE CONTROL:	Critical fire season, worst since creation of park. Eight Fire Control Aids entered on duty.	5
PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS:	Work on PCPs slowed with Engineer Shenker on sick leave all month.	6
NEW CONSTRUCTION:	Work on clearing and levee construction began east of Flamingo canal. Contractor Cothron's work progressed slowly. Project 1A1 89% complete. Wright and Son, construction company, completed 75% of grubbing and clearing on B.P.R. Project 1A2-6A1. Recommendations made that low bidder on 1A5 be rejected and award be made to second lowest bidder.	6
CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS:	On site review made with park and Everglades Park Co. personnel.	6

In reply refer to:
A2623

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
November 1955

General

Weather Conditions: Throughout central and southern Florida, rainfall deficiency was beginning to be noted with alarm. In the park it amounted to a minus 12.32 inches for the year or minus 1.08 inches in November which is normally a dry month with only 1.84 inches as average.

The Kissimee Valley north of Lake Okeechobee was suffering with citrus groves dying and forage for cattle in critical condition. The lake itself had been held low by the Army Engineers in anticipation of October rains that never came. Navigation at the lake was endangered as were the farms requiring irrigation nearby. So, all of this area, including the park, is going into the dry season in about as bad a condition as the disastrous fire years of 1944-1945.

Station readings are as follow:

	Max. Temp	Mean Max	Min. Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm Station	87°	77.1°	48°	58.1°	0.28"
Coot Bay Station	86°	82.2°	50°	61.5°	0.80"
Tamiami Station	87°	77.7°	48°	63.5°	1.25"
Florida Bay Station	84°	80.7°	46°	69.2°	0.47"

Increase in Travel: A total of 14,193 persons visited the park during the month, an increase of 4.5% over November 1954 and of 14.6% over October of this year. All states, except six, were represented in addition to three Canadian provinces and 13 foreign countries.

During the month a tabulation was made of the number of vehicles entering the park in connection with farm and construction activity at Long Pine Key and Flamingo, respectively. It was estimated that these activities accounted for 1860 vehicles or more than 33% of the total cars entering the park. The persons in these 1860 cars are not included in our visitation figure.

Visitors: Dr. and Mrs. F. C. Craighead of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, have returned here for the winter season. Dr. Craighead is a park collaborator

General Lewis B. Rock, USMC, retired, Homestead, visited Mahogany Hammocks.

Ted Williams, outfielder, Boston Red Sox, Islamorada, Florida

Administration

Personnel: Mrs. Irene W. Ranka, clerk-typist, transferred to the Homestead Air Force Base effective November 6, 1955.

Mr. Edward R. Mason entered on duty as Motorboat Operator at Fort Jefferson National Monument effective November 25, 1955.

Position No. 60, Park Naturalist, GS-453-5, was established on November 29, 1955.

Assistant Superintendent Fry and Administrative Aid Taylor attended the monthly Federal Personnel Council Meeting in Miami on November 8 and a special meeting of the Council on November 18 called to discuss the FSEE conducted by Assistant Regional Director RIMA of the 5 USCSC.

Assistant Superintendent Fry was elected President of FEU 1167, National Federation of Federal Employees, on November 8 for his 3rd term.

Cooperative Activities

Boundary Adjustments: Maps were drawn and aerial photographs were made into a mosaic of the country from the Ten Thousand Islands to Lostman's River. Collaborator Manly and the Superintendent took these and other materials to Tallahassee for a conference with Mr. Fred Elliott, Secretary and Engineer for the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund. Elliott had previously been assigned by Governor Collins to study and recommend on park boundaries in that area.

Elliott's long acquaintance with the situation and his appreciation for the park and its purposes resulted in a satisfactory conference. Copies of the maps were retained by Elliott and a compromise line was indicated upon same. The next step is for him to report to the Governor and the other Trustees at a meeting where a quorum will be present. The conference with Mr. Elliott followed an earlier one in Miami where the Director, Governor, Senators, and others were present.

Interpretive Activities and Developments

Interpretive Facilities: Work progressed on the newly paved Gumbo Limbo Trail. This work consisted of preparation of new labels, planning of texts, and development of new devices. Target date for reopening of the trail was set for December 15.

Interpretive Services: The naturalist staff manned the Royal Palm Station seven days during the month when 2,665 visitors used the station.

Six talks were given at the station to 342 visitors. In addition the naturalist staff offered informal information at three "night flights" to 206 attending visitors.

Three talks were given outside the park to organizations in the community.

On November 2, Park Naturalist Christensen spoke to the ladies' organization of the Christian Church with an attendance of 24.

On November 7, the Park Naturalist spoke to the 30 members of the Women's Club of Hialeah and on November 9 he and Chief Ranger Campbell spoke to an audience of 350 at the Tropical Audubon Society meeting in Miami.

Research and Observation: The bird and alligator population began to make its annual increase at Taylor Slough and at Royal Palm. Up to 12 alligators were counted at one time on sunning places.

Roseate spoonbills at Florida Bay were relatively inconspicious all month--a good sign that incubation is under way.

Ranger Barnie Parker reported that the alligator population at river headwaters continues to show sporadic improvement. He checked 25 baby 'gators and 39 larger ones. Parker also recorded numerous panther signs at Highlands Beach and the Chief Ranger saw one at Pine Island.

East River Rookery and Cuthbert Lake Rookery had not begun to form by month's end.

Operations

Oil Exploration: The offshore exploratory well just west of the park's boundary near Sandy Key was a "duster." This very expensive exploratory well from a floating rig on Gulf Oil Corporation's lease 826-G in Monroe County reached a depth of 12,631 feet--the deepest and one of the driest holes ever drilled in Florida. There were some traces of oil and "faint sour gas odors" (not uncommon near Cape Sable), but nothing else.

Extensive seismological study had indicated a subsurface dome in the area. It did not contain oil. Meanwhile both wells had ceased pumping at Tamiami area close to park boundaries that had triggered the stock speculation, public hearings, and wild excitement during the incumbency of Acting Governor Charley Johns. Reliable reports indicate these wells will soon be closed out as they are costing the companies about $6,000 a month to operate.

For the first time since the early 1940's, the oil "fever" at and near what is now Everglades National Park had quieted.

Protection and Ranger Service: Hunting season for deer and turkey began November 23, the day before Thanksgiving, the first five days being open. The season lasts through January 8. Eight glades buggies were noted in the area south of the Loop Road and in the vicinity of the park boundary the first day. The number of hunters has increased somewhat since that time, but no violations were observed. This creditable showing is likely due in large part to the tent quarters established near Iron Pot Hammock and occupied by two seasonal rangers. Hunters have been surprised to see these men walking on foot at various points along the park boundary. Word about the camp was well circulated in the Homestead area prior to the hunting season. It appears to have had a salutary effect.

The hunting situation in the "Hole-in-the-Donut" is considerably improved over last year because much of this land is now posted against hunting by the farmer landowners. Only eight glades buggies permits to travel across park lands for the purpose of hunting in the "Hole-in-the-Donut" were issued during the month. This is less than one-half of the number (17) issued for the corresponding month last year.

The rangers continue to have difficulty with construction workers speeding to and from the job. Foremen of the Wright, Cothron and Hendry Companies have been cautioned by the rangers that the workers must reduce their speed in driving to and from the project.

Only one case was heard before the U. S. Commissioner during the month, involving an individual apprehended driving without an operator's permit.

Patrol mileage was as follows:

Car	6,846
Boat	2,537
Glades Buggy	174
Airplane	460
Airboat	206
Total.....	10,223

Maintenance: Maintenance crews completed transporting materials and began certain repair and changes at Lostman's River Station. They used their new, specially designed work boat which sank when it hit rough water. Well doused, they were rescued by the escorting rangers. Materials and craft were salvaged and the boat has been renamed "U.S.N.P.S. Nautilus"

Concessioners: Audubon Wildlife Tours began in the Florida Bay area on November 28. Their tours in the park this winter are necessarily curtailed because of road construction in the Flamingo area.

The superintendent attended a luncheon conference with the directors of Everglades Park Co. in Coral Gables. The conference concerned plans and programs of the company for the coming winter. MISSION 66 was discussed. The 20-year contract with this company was finally approved and goes into effect January 1, 1956.

Forest Fire Control: This is the most critical fire season since the inception of the park because of the abnormal dry condition for this time of year. Six non-statistical warming fires were extinguished by the East Boundary Patrolman along Loveland Road during the early park of the hunting season.

Eight fire control aids entered on duty November 8.

A new fire dispatcher's map was made for headquarters, and considerable maintenance work was done on glades buggies and other fire equipment during the month.

Design and Construction

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: Engineer Shenker was on sick leave all month, so the work on meeting PCP deadlines was slowed.

New Construction: Park crews began work of clearing and levee construction east of the Flamingo canal anticipating stockpiling of oolite at the quarters and road site by BPR work order on dredging contract.

Cothron's work at Flamingo on bulkheads and finger piers moved slowly in spite of an approaching deadline. The work, however, was good and the area is taking on a sharp appearance. The finger piers at Basin No. 1 were going in. The job is a satisfactory one so far. Cothron is not expected to finish by the December 15 completion date, but there is justification for some extension beyond that.

Project 1A1 was 89% complete. This is the B.P.R. job by Brinson Construction Company for dredging and stockpiling oolite at Flamingo. Several discussions by B.P.R. and park personnel indicate that the concensus of both is to run the full amount of the contract (750,000 cubic yards) and beyond if possible. Feeling is that this opportunity for oolite fill is a "one shot" deal in Flamingo and it will be good policy to be sure to get enough.

Wright Construction Company had completed about 75% of grubbing and clearing on B.P.R. Project 1A2-6A1. The road is beginning to take shape from Flamingo northward. The oolite base bends very well and a combination of circumstances indicates that a very fine road job is in progress.

Recommendations were made that the low bidder on 1A5 (Road from West Lake to Nine Mile Bend) be rejected and that award be made to Blythe Construction Co., second lowest bidder.

Conferences and Meetings: On the site review was made of initial development problems with park and Everglades Park Co. personnel at Flamingo. Principal subjects discussed related to the marine service building construction, planning of public service building, and electrical power proposals.

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

Files

Summary of the December 1955 Monthly Narrative Report for EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

		Page
WEATHER:	December rains 1" above average. Over-all rainfall for year 11.57" below norm.	1
TRAVEL:	Decrease of .5% from December 1954. A total of 247,092 for calendar year 1955.	1
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Congressman Chudoff and assistants inspected the park.	1
MISCELLANEOUS:	Everglades personnel showed they came from 19 different National Park Service localities.	2
PERSONNEL:	Eleven personnel actions affecting employees were taken during the month.	2
COOPERATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES:	Assisted Air Force to pick survival training area. Wild Cotton Eradication Project to start soon. Met with Florida Forest Service to discuss fire control and related conservation policies. Helped State officers of Salt-water Fisheries Division to enforce regulations on mullet fishing.	3
INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES:	Labels for Gumbo Limbo Trail almost complete.	3
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:	Winter program formally began on December 15. Total of 50,241 interpretive contacts made in the park during December.	3
GENERAL PUBLICITY:	Holiday and Readers Digest carried articles on park. Miami Herald had several features and Florida State News came for 16 mm. TV program film. Other usual crop of photographers.	4
RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:	Crocodile seen at East River Rookery. Young roseate spoonbills reported. Flamingo couple back at old site.	5
STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS:	Conference on retrial of land condemnation suit.	5
PROTECTION AND RANGER SERVICE:	In-Service Training Conference held December 6. Sidney Whitaker of Miami arrested by Ranger Winte as suspect on charge of assaulting and impeding an officer while in performance of duty.	5

		Page
MAINTENANCE:	Work continued on Lostman's River Ranger Station. Old service station at Coot Bay torn down.	6
FOREST FIRE CONTROL:	Fire conditions continue critical. Need for additional seasonal fire control aids discussed with Region One.	7
PLANS, MAPS & SURVEYS:	P.C.P. priority list forwarded to Region.	8
CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS:	Conference on pressure versus gravity flow held. Proposals to establish electric power plant in Flamingo heard. Increasing contract quantity of dredge rock agreed upon.	8

In reply refer to:
A2823

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
December 1955

General

Weather Conditions: Cold front rains brought December precipitation in the park one inch above what is considered average for December. Nevertheless, accumulated deficiency for 1955 amounted to 11.57". There were several cold snaps reflecting what must be a rather rugged winter in the north. To a considerable extent these were believed to have put a damper on visitation.

Readings from stations follow:

	Max. Temp	Mean Max	Min. Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm Station	84°	76.0°	41°	53.9°	2.88"
Coot Bay Station	85°	79.0°	41°	58.1°	1.13"
Florida Bay Station	82°	77.7°	50°	64.9°	1.44"
Tamiami Station	86°	79.4°	44°	58.7°	1.55"

Decrease in Travel: Visitors to the park totalled 19,917, a decrease of .5% compared with December 1954 and an increase of more than 40% over this past November. Of interest is that about 45% (8,789) of the December visitation occurred during the 7-day period, December 25-31. All states, except Wyoming, were represented in addition to 6 Canadian provinces and 3 foreign countries.

A total of 247,092 visitors entered the park during the calendar year 1955, an increase of 13.3% over 1954.

The trend in southern Florida continues. Christmas vacation period is being exploited by the coordinated promotion of Orange Bowl week. Each year since the park started, more people have been attracted. Although statistics are not available at this writing, newspaper estimates indicate a greater influx of tourists than ever before. Park travel reflects it. Decrease for December this year was possibly because of cold weather and the fact that the park road is closed below Royal Palm.

Special Activities: Several conferences, inspections, and studies received attention at Everglades City. It was hoped that guided boat trips could be activated there, but a foul up on dredging channels caused it to be postponed.

Congressman Earl Chudoff and assistants spent one day in the park. The inspection was entirely satisfactory and the Congressman as well as his assistants expressed themselves as being in sympathy with our program here.

Miscellaneous: Everglades seems to be a "melting pot" or something. A census taken at the annual training conference showed that park personnel have served at the following places: Yosemite, Carlsbad Caverns, Mammoth Cave, Blue Ridge, Shenandoah, Dinosaur, Crater Lake, Castillo de San Marcos, Lake Texoma, Region Two Office, Yellowstone, Glacier, Grand Canyon, Grand Teton, Region One Office, Rocky Mountain, Washington Office, Morristown, and Acadia.

Administration

Personnel: David O. Karraker, e.o.d. in the newly established position, Pos. #70, Park Naturalist, GS-422-5, on December 4.

Position #9, a new temporary position of Biologist, GS-401-7, was established on December 8.

Position #71, Supervisory Park Ranger, GS-453-6, Lostman's River Subdistrict, was established December 9 in lieu of the Park Ranger, incumbent Marcus B. Parker. Promotion effective December 21.

Position #8, District Park Ranger, GS-453-7, Tamiami District, was established December 9 in lieu of Supervisory Park Ranger (District Ranger), incumbent Erwin C. Winte. Promotion effective December 21.

Position #11, Fiscal Accounting Clerk, GS-501-5, was approved effective December 6, involving a Redescription of Duties, incumbent Florence Schwartz.

Position #65, Clerk-Stenographer, GS-312-4, was approved December 6, involving a Redescription of Duties, incumbent Helen Rea.

Position #58, Voucher and Payroll Clerk, GS-501-4, was established December 6 in lieu of the Cost Clerk position, incumbent Maude Harriott.

Seasonal Ranger Wilmer H. Walker from Yellowstone National Park e.o.d. December 4.

Seasonal Ranger Naturalist Robert Carpenter from Yosemite National Park e.o.d. December 4.

Seasonal Ranger Naturalist Vernon Gilbert from Great Smoky Mountains National Park e.o.d. December 4.

Seasonal Ranger Naturalist Dwight T. Warren from Grand Canyon National Park e.o.d. December 14.

Cooperative Activities

Cooperation with Other Federal, State or Local Agencies: The Chief Ranger met with M/Sgt. Kohl of the Homestead Air Force Base to assist the Air Force in establishing a survival training area in the Everglades region for Air Corps men. An area for such training was selected outside of the park south of the Loop Road in glade and cypress country. Sergeant Kohl visited the area with District Ranger Winte, reporting that conditions found were satisfactory.

Mr. Bittner, who recently replaced W. E. Conn as Project Leader of the Wild Cotton Eradication Project, visited the office on December 20, at which time it was agreed that the project camp could be set up at the site of Brown's Camp at Flamingo. The Wild Cotton Project will have a comparatively short season this year as work forces likely will not commence eradication until the middle of January, normally work starting by December 15.

On December 1, Fire Control Chief Bethea and District Ranger Peeples of the Florida Forest Service met with the Superintendent and Chief Ranger to discuss fire control and related conservation activities. The State Representatives were shown park fire equipment. On December 8, Messrs. Murphy, Carreker and Smith of Mr. Peeples' office also visited the park, reviewing in particular our fire control organization. Advice was received from them that a new lookout would take over duties at the Princeton Fire Tower of the Florida Forest Service, commencing the middle of January.

State officers from the Saltwater Fisheries Division spent several days in Florida Bay cooperating in the enforcement of regulations covering the closed mullet season. The men occupied the Middle Cape Patrol Station as a base of operations.

Interpretive Activities and Development

Interpretive Facilities: Considerable progress has been made toward getting the Gumbo Limbo Trail labeled. Most of the label holders and labels have been installed along the trail. The easel-type key label holder is not complete but should be ready in the near future.

Easel-type interpretive devices are being constructed for use on the Anhinga Trail and the prototype for these should appear on the trail very soon.

Public acceptance of Gumbo Limbo Trail has been excellent.

Interpretive Services: The regular winter interpretive program was formally begun on December 15. Three guided walks along the Gumbo Limbo Trail were scheduled daily at 11:00, 1:30, and 3:30. A talk on biotic

communities was given daily on the porch of the Royal Palm Ranger Station. Evening talk, Night Flight, and Night Prowl activities were limited to weekends until December 26 when they became daily features. Special talks were given to two groups. On December 20, Ranger Naturalist Carpenter took care of a local scout group; and on December 27, Assistant Park Naturalist Karraker gave a special talk to a group from the City College of New York.

The Senior Girl Scouts acting as Ranger-aids assisted with public contacts on the Anhinga walk on weekends and during the busiest days of the Christmas holidays.

Generally, the expanded and experimental program seemed successful, though certain changes in schedule seem to be desirable. Following is a breakdown of programs and attendance:

No.	Program	Total Attendance	Average
45	Guided Walks	1,196	26.5
18	2:15 p.m. Talk	705	39
7	7:30 p.m. Talk	246	35
6	Night Flight	386	64
3	Night Prowl	83	28
3	Special	121	40
82		2,737	33.4

In addition, 8,804 visitors attended the Royal Palm Station during the 26 days it was manned by the Naturalist. It is estimated that 19,800 park visitors used the Anhinga Trail; 12,200 the Gumbo Limbo, and 4,700 the trail at Station 3 into the Cypress Head. Thus a total of 50,241 interpretive contacts were made in the park during the month of December.

General Publicity: An article appeared in Holiday and another in Readers Digest mentioning the park or park personnel. The Holiday article was especially noteworthy for its appraisal of the Florida of today.

Steve Trumbull, dean of Florida newspaper reporters, had several feature articles in the Miami Herald concerning the Everglades City area as part of the general build-up for programs and trips at this "western water gateway." Large signs were placed at the Carnestown corner of Tamiami Trail and the Everglades City turnoff by the Colliers. The build-up was poorly timed through, because the program did not start on schedule.

The usual crop of photographers were around, some after TV shorts, etc. Charles Le Baron of Florida State News was back again for 16 mm. TV this time. He has been especially helpful in the past because we can refer people wanting publicity pictures to him where they can get them without cost.

Research and Observation: District Ranger Senne observed a crocodile, 4 to 5 feet in length, at the East River Rookery, apparently the first to be reported by park personnel in this area. Senne also reported the East River and Cuthbert Lake Rookeries appear in excellent condition with many wood ibis and some American egrets present. The two flamingos are also back at their old stand at Lake Ingraham, and a Hudsonian and long-billed curlew were observed there by Major Bowes.

Ranger Parker reported 150 white pelicans in Second Bay and a flight of 650 wood ibis over Alligator Bay.

Young roseate spoonbills were reported by District Ranger Mrazek as starting to hatch by the third week of the month with parent birds busy flying back and forth in an effort to satisfy the young appetites. At Stake Key where the largest crop of young is anticipated, a steady chorus of twittering could be heard. A few vultures were observed at this Key, indicating the possibility of some mortality among the young birds.

Operations

Status of Private Lands: A meeting attended by Shenker and Mr. Manly at Clewiston, Florida, with Messrs. Pruitt and Noll of Pruitt and Noll, Land Surveyors for the State of Florida, and Mr. Jones, Specisl Assistant U. S. Attorney, on December 12 was to discuss how best to use the recent State survey in the coming retrial of a land condemnation suit in Federal Court and to brief Mr. Jones concerning details of the survey.

Protection and Ranger Service: The In-Service Training Conference of December 6 and 7 highlighted the protection activities for the month. The conference, pitched at a high level, furnished considerable guidance and information with respect to administration, operation and protection.

On December 18 District Ranger Winte in attempting to apprehend an individual on the Tamiami Trail that he suspected of shooting a deer in the park, was forced to jump to safety in order to avoid being struck by the suspect's automobile. The license number of the vehicle was secured. The following day the suspect, a Mr. Sidney Whitaker of Miami, was arrested by the F.B.I. and on December 21, he was bound over by the U. S. Commissioner Roger Davis awaiting action by the Federal Grand Jury on a charge of assaulting and impeding an officer while in the performance of his duties. (Sec. 111, Title 18, U.S.Code.)

Hunting south of the Loop Road outside of the park continued in full swing throughout the month. Noteworthy has been the care with which hunters have avoided entering the park. Two patrols were made by rangers in rental airplanes to check on evidences of entry, but no infractions were noted.

Frogging activity along the east boundary in the Tamiami District picked up during the month with need for increased patrol by ranger personnel in this vicinity of the park. Winte reports that the froggers now state they have no difficulty finding the east boundary line because the white-backed boundary signs are clearly visible. The change from orange to white paint tor backing boundary signs was made here this past fall and in other parts of the park as well.

District Ranger Mrazek towed Jay K. Allen, a commercial fisherman, from Porjoe Key to Key Largo as Allen had run out of gas and was rowing his skiff when Mrazek met him.

The entrance station was manned from 4:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. during the week of December 18 to assist in determining the proportion of visitation during those hours resulting from construction workers, farmers, park employees, and related persons.

District Ranger Mrazek spent considerable time checking commercial fishermen. He reports pompano fishing increasing but catches light with prices running as high as $1.10 per pound. Mrazek also noted that trapping stone crabs was on the upswing with one operator using 650 traps and taking an average of 250 lbs. of crabs per day. Crabs reportedly now sell at 30¢ to 40¢ per lb.

The 29 silver mullet fishermen who had permits covering this activity during 1955 were advised that permits must be renewed if they intend to follow this type of commercial fishing in 1956. To date, 15 have requested permits.

On December 31 all shrimping in the park terminated except for two permits to catch bait, issued for one year only.

Patrol mileage for protection personnel was as follows:

Car and Truck	10,647
Boat	2,094
Airplane	1,100
Airboat	310
Glades Buggy	192
Total.....	14,343

Maintenance: Work continued on repairs and rehabilitation of Lostman's River Ranger Station. The work was made difficult by cold weather and choppy seas to and from the project.

The old service station at Coot Bay was torn down by park crews to make way for road construction. This disproves the oft repeated saying that temporary structures in parks last forever.

The nursery or holding beds at Rowdy Bend was enlarged and some 30 cabbage palms were put in by removal from the way of construction.

Forest Fire Control: Forest fire conditions continued critical, with the current season considered the worst in a decade.

There were two (smoker and debris caused) fires during the month, burning a total of 25 acres inside the park and 2,078 acres outside.

The need for additional seasonal fire control aids was discussed with Messrs. Stratton and Arnold of the Region One Office during their visit to the park in December. A memorandum covering this discussion was submitted to the Regional Office.

Design and Construction

Plans, Maps and Surveys: P.C.P. priority list for 1957 and 1958 was forwarded to the Regional Office.

Foundation plan for Concession Marina Building was approved on December 23.

New Construction: See attached Forms 10-771 and 10-24 for progress of new construction.

Conferences and Meetings: Conference with U. S. Public Health officials, representatives of Everglades Park Co., Inc., and Messrs. Vint, Zimmer and Sweeny of EODC and Regional Chief of Operations Stratton resulted in cursory analysis of pressure versus gravity flow water system from elevated tank. It was rather conclusively decided three pressure tanks would be required, one each to supply the public service building-marina area, the picnic-campgrounds development, and the utility-personnel housing area, whereas one tank elevated, perhaps to serve also as a lighthouse, would serve the entire Flamingo development. It was decided EODC would make immediate analytical and cost study of the two systems.

Lowery Electric Company and Mr. Plato Cox offered proposals to establish an electric power plant in the Flamingo utility and install underground primary lines to principal use areas in the Flamingo area. No firm estimate of the cost of power was made. Both these parties stated more detailed proposals would be offered when more specific requirements are available. The Florida Power and Light Company which is also studying the cost to build a line to Flamingo has not submitted a proposal as yet.

Incineration rather than the burning of wastes was recommended by the representative of the U. S. Public Health Service. Little, if any, appreciable difference in the ultimate cost of the two systems was expected.

Conference with Mr. Cron and Mr. Cates of the Bureau of Public Roads and Captain Hendry of the Brinson Construction Company was held on increasing the contract quantity of dredged rock. Captain Hendry agreed to the increase and location of the dredged area. The Bureau of Public Roads will follow through with a work order to cover the additional rock and change in stockpile location.

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

FORM 10-771
(Revised December 1950)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES
* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

REGION One

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

REPORT FOR Month Year December 1955

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park Dredgings, Filling, Bulkheading and Site Preparation, Flamingo Account No. 333.3	M-15-1	2141,2142, 3005	$244,256.47 5/24/54	93	C Balance - Red $390.75 $2,500 transferred from Account 332.5. Generally speaking the contractor has progressed in his usual manner during the month. Except for additional grading and finishing the bulkheading operation is complete. The finger piers in basin No. 1 are 85% complete and the piers in basin No. 2 are 60% complete. Change Order No. 4 was written on December 14. This change order extended the completion date of the contract by 21 days. A stop order suspended all work on December 24 and a letter dated December 27 directed the contractor to resume work on January 3, 1956. The new completion date is January 14.
Piers at Flamingo Account No. 333.4	M-55	3006	$ 6,035 8/18/54	80	C Balance $0.00 This work included in above contract.

* Cross out the one not being used

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1951 O - 960441

FORM 10-771
(Revised December 1950)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES
* N.P.S. ROADS AND TRAILS

REGION One

REPORT FOR November 1955

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Waterway, Shark to Broad River Account No. 333.5	N-6-2		$14,025	0	Balance Red $8.16 Funds transferred to Account No. 333.3
Landscape Development, Flamingo Account No. 333.6	N-52-1		$19,040 8/18/54	0	Balance $2,379.87 $14,450 transferred to Account No. 333.3. Work under this Account will start after the completion of B&R contracts for roads in the Flamingo Area.
Water System, Flamingo Account No. 332.1	U-30		$59,500 7/20/55	0	Balance $57,551.90 Location of well site being held in abeyance until main road 146 has been located. Specifications for the purchase of a water carrier has been received from WPRC and bids will be requested next month.
Addition to FM Radio System			$44,969 8/18/54	70	C-DL Balance $5,120.07 $2,500 transferred to Account 333.3. All radios received and most of them installed.
Test Wells, Concrete Bridge Account No. 332.10	U-19-1	2095	$ 2,760	98	C-DL Balance $320.90 Further salinity tests will be made.
Power System, Flamingo Account No. 332.11	U-28-1		$ 6,035	0	Balance $6033.32 Method of power source under consideration.

* Cross out the one not being used

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE . 1951 O - 960441

FORM 10-771
(Revised December 1950)

REPORT 7m5

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES

* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

REGION _____

REPORT FOR _____ Month _____ Year

December 1955

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. 523.1	R-35-1	2129 - 0	$65,600	0	Balance $65,598.32 NPS roads and parking areas will be constructed in conjunction with BPR contract for roads at Flamingo
Ashinga Trail Account No. 523.2	R-24-1	2124 - C	$18,000 8/3/55	0	Balance $10,522.86 Work is expected to be started in April
Utility Road & Court, Pine Island Account No. 523.4	R-10-2	2116 - A	$ 3,040 8/3/55	0	Balance $2,997.79 Work is expected to be started in March
Nature Trails, Paradise Key Account No. 523.5	R-23		$ 3,040	80	DL - Balance $1408.70 This account was reported as complete in the October report. It is being reinstated as additional work is planned for the trail.
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. 523.9	R-35-1	2129 - 0	$75,520 8/19/54	0	Balance $70,485.91 Pumping of rock in the residential area for grading and stockpiling started Dec. 19 and is expected will be complete by the first half of Jan.

* Cross out the one not being used

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1951 O - 960441

FORM 10-24

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REPORT 7m5

REGION ~~One~~

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

REPORT FOR ~~MONTH OF~~ YEAR 1955

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	PCP NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED PROG. APPVD	CONTRACT EXECUTED WORK START	% COMPL.	REMARKS
Everglades National Park Park Highway from Flamingo Sta. 2131+00 to Sta. 15[illegible]+00 a distance of approx. 27 miles, including a bridge at Flamingo, grading and bit. surfacing.	R-14-4	Appvd. 1954 $1[illegible]0,[illegible] 1955 9[illegible],9[illegible] 1955 357,5[illegible]0 1956 [illegible],7[illegible] $2,356,1[illegible]0			
Project 1A1 Contract No. 14-10-[illegible]-439 Brinson Constr. Co.	R-14-4		3/29/55 6/20/55	95%	Contract-$[illegible]7,[illegible] for 75[illegible],[illegible] cu. yds of rock dredged from Florida Bay and stockpiled. Work Order "B" dated Dec. 23, 1955 issued to increase the yardage by 11[illegible],[illegible] cu. yds at contract unit price of $.7[illegible]6. 6[illegible],[illegible] cu. yds. are for [illegible], stockpiled in proposed residential area and funds from Account No. 5[illegible]3.9. The original contract is complete and 7[illegible],[illegible] cu. yds. under Work Order "B" have been dredged. Completion of this contract expected before Jan. 15, 1956
Project 1A2-6A1 Contract No. 14-10-[illegible]-546 E. H. Wright & Son	R-14-4		7/26/55 1[illegible]/5/55	25%	Contract - $511,7[illegible]6 for 8.6 miles of road from Flamingo Sta. 18[illegible]+00 to Sta. 219[illegible]+00 which is about [illegible] mi. west of West Lake. 6A1 covers (cont. on next page)

FORM 10-24

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REPORT 7m5

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REGION _____

REPORT FOR _____ _____
MONTH YEAR

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	PCP NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED / PROG. APPVD	CONTRACT EXECUTED / WORK START	% COMPL.	REMARKS
Project 142-641 continued: ----					the roads and parking areas at the Flamingo Developed Area. Clearing and grubbing about [illegible] complete, rock placed from Flamingo to 2 mile east of Coot Bay. Excavation for the parking area about 25% complete.
Project 145 Contract No. 14-10-0100-594 Blythe Brothers Co.	R-14-4			0	Under date of Dec. 1, 1955 the low bidder was rejected and bid of $434,860, 2nd low bidder was awarded to Blythe Brothers of Charlotte, N. C. This project covers 4 miles and is from Sta. 15[illegible] to Sta. 18[illegible] which is about 3 mile southwest of Nine Mile Bend.

Files
has attachment

Summary of the January 1956 Monthly Narrative Report
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

		Page
WEATHER:	Longest cold spell on record. Increased fire hazard due to falling leaves killed by frost.	1
TRAVEL:	Highest visitation on record in spite of long cold spell and closing of road to Flamingo.	1
VISITORS:	Highlighted by the President who chanced to fly over the area -- on his way to Key West.	2
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Ground studies of proposed road alignment made by Stout and Peetz of EODC. Burns of Region One gave assistance on P.C.P. work. Engineer Sweeny of EODC and Assistant Superintendent Fry inspected Fort Jefferson NM.	2
OIL:	Oil well at Forty Mile Bend scratched off the producing list of wells officially. Humble and Gulf Oil Corps. having reductions in force in this section of Florida.	2
PERSONNEL:	Nine personnel actions taken. Federal Personnel Council Meeting attended by Administrative Officer and Assistant Superintendent.	2
BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:	Meeting in Washington on boundary adjustments. Reasonable solution seems attainable.	3
COOPERATING AGENCIES:	Proposed Memorandum of Understanding discussed at meeting with Coast Guard. Cooperation given to and received from Ground Observer Corps, Florida Salt Water Fisheries Division, U. S. Geological Survey, Florida State Game and Fish Commission.	4
INTERPRETIVE FACILITY:	Another campfire lighted.	
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:	99,481 interpretive contacts made for month.	5

		Page
RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:	Preliminary survey of frost damage to park made by Dr. Craighead and Dr. Robertson.	5
STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS:	Boy Scouts acquired land south of Long Pine Key Road. Cement plant rumored planned about 2 miles south of Osceola's village and a mile each of park.	
PROTECTION AND RANGER SERVICE:	Deer season closed with hunters respecting park boundary lines. Trespass by froggers reported along east boundary.	6
CONCESSIONERS:	Airboat proposed for use in park by concessioners inspected.	7
FOREST FIRE CONTROL:	Four fires burned 383 acres, all outside park. Cold spell worsens fire conditions.	7
PLANS, MAPS, & SURVEYS:	Survey completed on land involved in retrial case. Some on-park technical assistance received.	8
NEW CONSTRUCTION:	Marine service building started. Final inspection of Project 1A1 made.	8
UTILITIES:	Proposals received to furnish electric power at Flamingo.	8
CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS:	Public hearing called by South Florida Flood Control District attended by Superintendent and Engineer. Meetings relative to reconstruction of Florida Route 27.	9

In reply refer to:
A2823

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
January 1956

General

Weather Conditions: A cold front, the U. S. Weather Bureau reporting it to be the longest one (10 days) since their records began in 1891, settled over south Florida including Everglades National Park. The Royal Palm District recorded nine days with temperatures 40 degrees or lower during this period of unfavorable weather. Coupled with reduced visitation during this period, the most marked effect of the cold spell was increased fire danger due to browning of vegetation throughout the glades and to burning of forest and fields surrounding tomato lands in order to provide a smog for protecting that valuable crop. Estimates as to loss suffered by the farmers of Dade County range from $2,000,000 to $10,000,000.

Readings from stations follow:

	Max. Temp	Mean Max	Min. Temp	Mean Min	Precipitation
Royal Palm Station	81°	74.3°	32°	47.1°	0.43"
Tamiami Station	83°	73.2°	33°	48.2°	1.29"
Florida Bay Station	80°	72.3°	43°	58.0°	0.34"
Coot Bay Station	81°	73.9°	37°	49.7°	0.62"

Increase in Travel: The greatest number (35,278) of persons to visit the park in any one month since the park's inception occurred during January in spite of the cold weather. Visitation this month increased 4.2% over January 1955 and 77.1% over last month. Most of the travel occurred after the cold spell. All states were represented as were Puerto Rico, 8 Canadian provinces, and two foreign countries.

This increase is particularly significant in view of the widely publicized closing of the road to Flamingo which eliminated sports fishing out of Cape Sable and because park figures are always on the conservative side.

Visitors:

The President of the United States. . . . (flew over)
Superintendent and Mrs. Clyde King, Mound City Group National Monument, Ohio
Sam Grimes, ornithologist and photographer of Jacksonville
Dean Amadon, ornithologist, American Museum of Natural History
Dr. and Mrs. Wells Baum of Oregan, on invitation of Secretary McKay
Marlon Perkins, Director of Lincoln Park Zoo and TV programs

Special Activities: Dean Stout and Edward Peetz of EODC were in the park making on the ground studies of proposed road alignment from Concrete Bridge (end of Project 1A6) to the park entrance and related plans. Albert S. Burns, Regional Programs and Plans Control Officer, spent a week in the park giving assistance on P.C.P. Ross Sweeny, engineer from EODC was in for inspection of works projects and a trip to Fort Jefferson National Monument with the Assistant Superintendent.

Oil Situation: State Geologist Herman Gunter reported that the Forty Mile Bend oil field in Dade County had been scratched off the list of producing fields and wells were all plugged. This was the "vast" oil discovery that raised such hob with the park a year or so ago and sent Acting Governor Charley Johns scurrying to buy stock as an evidence of his interest in the matter.

Humble Oil and Refining Co., largest operator in Florida who brought in the Sunniland field (4,313,931 barrels since 1943), were slowing down and had made a second reduction in force at their Tallahassee office in one year. Dr. Gunter said Gulf Oil Corp. is also cutting down its Florida operations.

The total production of the Forty Mile Bend field was 11,289 barrels which did not even pay drilling costs.

Too bad!

Administration

Personnel: Dr. William B. Robertson, Jr., entered on duty as biologist (temporary appointment) effective January 3, 1956.

John L. Scudder was given temporary appointment as laborer not to exceed 6 months effective January 11, 1956.

Leroy F. Orme's WAE appointment as laborer was terminated January 14 and in lieu thereof he was given a temporary appointment effective January 15.

Robert N. Perkins, Jr., seasonal ranger, received a permanent appointment at Carlsbad Caverns National Park as Tour Leader, effective January 15.

Ernest J. Borgman received a promotion and was transferred from Shenandoah National Park to Everglades National Park effective January 1. He is stationed at Flamingo.

Marvin C. Hershey given temporary appointment as Fire Control Aid effective January 21.

Albert A. Ayers was reassigned from Park Ranger to Fire Control Aid (Seasonal) effective January 29.

Edmund J. Bucknall was reassigned from Park Ranger to Fire Control Aid (Seasonal) effective January 29.

Position No. 21, Personnel Assistant, GS-201-6, was established in lieu of Administrative Aid on January 18.

Assistant Superintendent Fry and Administrative Officer Heaton attended the Federal Personnel Council Meeting in Miami on January 10.

Cooperative Activities

Boundary Adjustments: Superintendent Beard went to Washington January 16--19 to participate in a conference at the Director's Office. The conference was called because Attorney General Richard Ervin and Engineer Fred Elliott, representing the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund of Florida, wished to present the Service with a plan for completion of Everglades National Park boundaries. Attending the conference were: Director Wirth and members of his staff; Regional Director Cox with Regional Chief of Operations Stratton; Ervin, Elliott, and party, including State Senator Neblett of Monroe County, Senator Spessard Holland, Congressman Dante B. Fascell, and representatives of Senator Smathers and Congressman Haley.

The State delegation proposed boundary restrictions to form a "corridor" connecting the Collier grant area with the Lostman's River boundary (park boundary prior to Secretary Order of 1954). They suggested that any lands or submerged lands that are not vitally needed for the park be released to the State. They further suggested that no additions be made to the existing park to "agricultural" lands.

The Superintendent had separate conferences with Senator Holland and Senator Smathers on this subject. With Assistant Director Allen, Chief of Cooperative Activities Ben Thompson, Leo Diederich, and others, the Superintendent met later with Attorney General Ervin and his party to reach a formula on the so-called "Hole-in-the-Donut" lands, part of which are being cultivated.

Total results appeared to be that a reasonable solution of boundary disputes seems attainable. The Director planned to write Attorney General Wrvin so that that official could present whatever proposition might be made to the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund.

Cooperation with Other Federal, State or Local Agencies: The annual inspection of charterboats based at Coot Bay and Flamingo was made by Commanders Schweizer and Boothby of the U. S. Coast Guard on January 11, the Chief Ranger and District Ranger assisting.

On January 31 the Chief Ranger contacted Mr. DeMeritt of the Operations Division of the Coast Guard with respect to a proposed Memorandum of Understanding with that organization relating to aids to navigation needed in the park. Advice was received that the Coast Guard Commandant had authorized the District Commander to proceed with an agreement with the park superintendent, noting, however, that it was the Coast Guard's responsibility to construct and maintain all aids to navigation in inland waters including those within Whitewater Bay. A meeting between the Coast Guard and Park staff is planned in the near future.

Park protection personnel participated in a Ground Observer Corps exercise on January 8. Commencing February 1, operation "Skywatch" went into effect, park personnel participating daily in this GOC exercise. Sergeants Williams and Shipman, 467th Ground Observer Squadron, Detachment 8, of Miami were in the park office twice during the month, seeking our cooperation on operation "Skywatch" and pointing out the importance of the park posts, particularly the fire tower lookouts, to the over-all observer system in south Florida.

Ranger personnel in the Cape Sable District worked closely with officers of the Florida Salt Water Fisheries Division who continued their work along the Gulf Coast and Florida Bay enforcing the closed mullet season until its reopening on January 21.

Mr. Stanley Leach of the Surface Water Branch, U. S. Geological Survey, accompanied District Ranger White to water gauging stations P-33 and P-35 to check and service those stations.

Florida Wildlife Officer Tom Shirley accompanied District Ranger White on two airboat patrols along the east boundary of the park in order to familiarize the state officer with the land adjacent to the park and the use of this outside area by froggers and hunters.

Interpretive Activities and Developments

Interpretive Facilities: Another Campfire Lighted. On the evening of January 11, another National Park Service campfire was lighted. Although it was a long distance from the place where Cornelious Hedges warmed his shanks , (and a long time later too) the events were in sequence. Barron Collier of Everglades City who, with his late brother Miles Collier, had donated some 35,000 acres for Everglades National Park, lighted a campfire at a temporary amphitheater he had constructed facing the palm-fringed Barron River in Everglades City.

Although it was freezing cold that night, the little ceremony was a good one and the symbolism of the campfire well accepted by all, as was its warmth. The event started the National Park Service interpretive program at the so-called "Western Water Gateway." Five naturalist talks were given in January. Dredging difficulties held up the guided boat trip program.

Interpretive Services: Continued cold weather during the first two weeks in January decreased attendance at naturalist activities. Generally, the cold reduced visitation to the park and very seriously lowered attendance at both nightflight and evening programs. Nevertheless, during the month of January 99,481 interpretive contacts were made at Everglades National Park. Of this number 7,667 were made as a result of talks, 29,303 attended a manned interpretive station, and 62,511 attended unmanned self-operating interpretive facilities. The following is a summary of attendance at interpretive programs.

Program	No. of Programs	Attendance
Guided Walk into Gumbo Limbo		
11:00 a.m.	30	612
1:00 p.m.	31	880
3:30 p.m.	32	1,050
Special	1	230
Talks		
2:15 p.m. Talk on Park	30	1,772
Special	1	230
Night Flight	31	1,110
Evening Talks	26	613
Night Prowl	4	159
Everglades Campfire	5	286
Special Contacts		501
Talk at Ft. Lauderdale	1	224
Attendance		
Anhinga Trail Boardwalk		32,309
Royal Palm Station		29,303
Gumbo Limbo Nature Trail		17,902
Cypress Head Boardwall		12,300

Research and Observation: Dr. Frank Craighead, Collaborator, and Dr. William Robertson, temporary biologist, made a preliminary survey of frost damage to the park. They rendered a special report upon it which may be briefed as follows:

1. Frost damaged at least 50 species of native plants.
2. Damage was severe only in low lying areas.
3. No appreciable frost-caused fire hazard in pineland, closed upland hammocks or tree islands in glades although marked leaf fall caused litter.

4. Damage throughout park evident to herbaceous plants in marshes and prairies which probably increased fire hazard in glades and coastal prairies.

5. Some woody plants in glades badly hit, such as cocoplum, buttonwood, guava, and primrose willow.

Cuthbert Lake Rookery and East River Rookery were both in trouble because of the cold spell and had either failed to form or were abandoned.

Two manatees were found dead with all evidence indicating the cold weather had done it. A snow goose and some blue geese were seen in the park. Black skimmers put in an appearance at Royal Palm. In areas, there was considerable mortality among fish (water temperatures were unofficially set at 59°). More white pelicans were seen in the park than ever before.

Generally, roseate spoonbills survived the cold spell because young-of-the-year were feathered out. It looks like the best year yet for the "pinks."

Operations

Status of Private Lands: Reports received indicate that the Boy Scouts have acquired 235 acres south of the Long Pine Key Road (R. 37, T. 58, Sec. 17) for a future campsite. The site is approximately one-half mile east of Long Pine Key lookout.

It is also reliably reported that a cement plant will be constructed, probably in T. 54 S., R. 37 E., about 2 miles south of William McKinley Osceola's village and a mile or so east of the park line.

Protection and Ranger Service: The deer season closed on January 8 with hunters respecting the park boundaries. Three air patrols were made during the season to discourage possible poaching and to note evidences of trespass if present. Assistant Chief Ranger McDowell, serving as air scout, observed no violations. Reports from informants and outside sources also were favorable. The tent used by park personnel as living quarters during the hunting season is to remain in place for several more weeks as a possible base in the event of forest fire and for subsequent patrols into the park by other than airboat.

District Ranger Winte reported trespass by froggers along the east boundary of the park. Night patrols are being made by district personnel in an attempt to apprehend froggers entering the park. Winte notes, however, that there has been far less trespass of this type during this year than during previous ones. A notable improvement is apparent by hunters and froggers in their respect of park boundaries.

District Ranger Mrazek spent considerable time contacting stone crabbers whom he reports are fighting among themselves because trap fields overlap and crabs are being pilfered from one another's traps.

Ranger personnel concerned with commercial fishing met with the Superintendent and Chief Ranger on January 4. It was agreed that the status quo would continue for the present with the possible exception of stone crabbing. The latter is being studied with the thought that regulations may be needed to control the situation during subsequent seasons.

Concessioners: A twin engine airboat proposed for use in the park by Everglades Park Co. for sight-seeing purposes was inspected by Assistant Chief Ranger McDowell and Concessioner W. T. Rose. The boat to hold 50 people was not considered too practicable.

Forest Fire Control: There were four (three debris-burning and one smoker) fires during January, burning a total of 383 acres outside the park and none within. A non-statistical fire of incendiary origin burned 428 acres outside of the park protection zone, park forces cooperating in its suppression at the request of personnel from the Navy Pumping Station which was threatened.

A lowering of the water table, frost damage to vegetation, and a minimum of precipitation continued to make forest fire conditions critical. (See also Research and Observation.) As a result of the cold spell frost damage to herbaceous plants in marsh and prairie vegetation types was present virtually throughout the park. Sedges dominating the slough runs and lower spots in the glades were completely brown, resulting in a considerable fuel supply in areas that ordinarily are less burnable than saw grass.

An allotment of $1,000 in forestry and fire control funds was received from the Region One Office, providing funds to employ an additional fire control aid during the current critical period.

Three plugs were placed at strategic locations in the canal paralleling the Seven Mile Road in order to permit easy crossing by equipment in the event of fires. In the seven miles there are now five crossings marked by posts having red reflectors and numbered 1 to 5 for easy identification in the event of emergency.

Design and Construction

Plans, Maps and Surveys: Pruitt and Noll, deputy State surveys returned on January 3 to complete a survey they had started in conjunction with the establishing of land lines in Townships 59 and 60 S., R. 35 E. This area is in connection with the retrial of a condemnation hearing in Federal Court for establishing a value on the lands taken. The survey was completed in two days.

The revised Tent Camp Layout Plan and the Picnic Area Layout Plan at Flamingo were received from EODC and approved, permitting inclusion of road construction under Project 1A2-6A1.

Plan studies for Typical Roadside Pull-offs and Diagrammatic Outline and Grading of Borrow Pit Ponds have been prepared and forwarded to EODC for review and comment.

Work has been continued in compilation of detailed data to be furnished in SPECIMEN "A" of COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM--MISSION 66.

On-park technical assistance has been rendered by Messrs. Albert S. Burns, Regional Project Control Officer; J. Dean Stout, Park Landscape Architect, Chief Roads and Trails Division, EODC; Ed S. Peetz, Park Landscape Architect, EODC; and Ross L. Sweeny, Chief, Engineering General Section, EODC.

New Construction: The concessioner's marine service building was started on January 7 and concrete piles, concrete grade beams, rough plumbing, electrical conduit, filling and tamping, and concrete floors in toilets and ice room all completed. Concrete blocks are on the job ready for wall construction. It is rather difficult to establish a completion date due to the lack of drawings and knowledge on potable water and power.

For the balance of report on new construction see Forms 10-771 and 10-24, attached.

The final inspection of Project 1A1 with Brinson Construction Co. for dredging and stockpiling oolite at Flamingo was made January 11 by F. W. Cron and Gaston Cates of the Bureau of Public Roads, Engineer Shenker and Assistant Superintendent Fry of the Everglades National Park, and Captain F. W. Hendry and Carl Carter, representing the contractor.

Utilities: Proposals as to furnishing power at Flamingo Developed Area were received from Lowry Electric Co. and from Mr. Plato Cox and transmitted to the Director's Office. Florida Power and Light Co. proposal has not been received as yet.

Conferences and Meetings: The Superintendent and Engineer attended a public hearing on January 20 called by the South Florida Flood Control District at the Dade County Court House. Present were representatives of Dade County Engineering Office, U. S. Engineers, U. S. Geological Survey men, Landowners Association and their legal and engineering consultants. The purpose of the hearing was to ascertain the objections to obtaining an authorization, prior to request for funds, for pumping stations to be erected on L-31 levee. The landowners objected strenuously to the contemplated plan of dumping excess water on their lands during the period of excessive rainfall. Inasmuch as the meeting was to cover only the request for authorization, the landowners agreed to remove their objections on receipt of an assurance from the U. S. Engineers that they will include consideration of private landowners in their engineering study as to the location of the pumping stations. The park's position was briefly stated as to concern as to the location of the pumping stations and requested review when study and plans are well defined.

Meeting with Messrs. W. T. Rose and Robert Knight of Everglades Park Co. and park personnel to review construction drawings of the marine service building resulted in approval of same January 14.

Park personnel met several times with Dade County Commissioners and State Road Department engineers relative to reconstruction of Florida Route 27 to the park entrance. The State allocated $250,000 for this project to be used or obliberted before July 1. Much hinged upon over-all Dade County traffic studies. It was readily recognized that the park's interest must be protected and worked into these rapidly maturing plans. Meanwhile, as a spur to the traffic studies, Miami has had its first real traffic jams in January. It appears likely that Route 27 will be reconstructed following practically present lines. Conferences are continuing on it.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES
* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

REGION One

REPORT FOR January 1956

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. 523.1	R-35-1	2129 - G	$65,600 8/3/55	0	Balance $65,597.26 NPS roads and parking areas will be constructed in conjunction with BPR contract for roads at Flamingo
Anhinga Trail Account No. 523.2	R-24-1	2124 - G	$18,000 8/3/55	0	Balance $11,512.86 Work is expected to be started in April
Utility Road & Court, Pine Island Account No. 523.4	R-10-2	2116 - A	$ 3,040 8/3/55	0	Balance $2,997.79 Work is expected to be started in March
Nature Trails, Paradise Key	R-23		$ 3,040 8/3/55	85	Balance $1,273.37 Trail widened in certain areas, large solution hole cleaned out, some signs installed.
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. 323.9 Account No. 523.9	R-35-1	2129 - G	$75,520 8/19/54	0	Balance $70,516.70 Rock stockpiling completed. 60,000 cu. yds. of rock placed within berms for this account and done by B.P.R. contract 14-10-0100-439 with Brinson Construction Company

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bunnerville Community Hall Parking area [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] - [illegible]	[illegible] [illegible]	[illegible]	Balance $[illegible] [illegible] and parking areas will be scheduled to [illegible] with DPW personnel for [illegible] [illegible]
Ballinger Park [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] — [illegible]	[illegible] [illegible]	[illegible]	Balance $[illegible] Item is expected to be started in April
Ballinger Road - Sheet, Pine Island [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] - [illegible]	[illegible] [illegible]	[illegible]	Balance $[illegible] Item is expected to be completed to funds
Ballinger Park, Meadow Hill	[illegible]		[illegible] [illegible]	[illegible]	Balance $[illegible] Phase 1 ended in [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
Sheffield Lane [illegible], Fletcher [illegible] [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] - [illegible]	[illegible] [illegible]	[illegible]	Balance $[illegible] Item completed. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES

REGION One

* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

REPORT FOR January 1956

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Dredgings, Filling, Bulkheading and Site Preparation, Flamingo Account No. 333.3	N-1501	2141,2142, 3005	$244,256.47 5/24/54	99	C Balance - Red $1,363.48 Final Inspection on Cothron contract 14-10-111-43 was made on Jan. 25 and by letter of Jan. 27, 1956, Final Inspection and Acceptance of work was made. Final cross sections and measurements being made and computation expected to be completed before Feb. 15.
Piers at Flamingo Account No. 333.4	N-55	3006	$ 6,035 8/18/54	99	C Balance $0.00 This work included in above contract.
Waterway, Shark to Broad River Account No. 333.5	N-6-2		$ 14,025 8/17/54	0%	Balance Red $8.16 Funds transferred to Account No. 333.3
Landscape Development, Flamingo Account No. 333.6	N-52-1		$ 19,040 8/18/54	0%	Balance $2,059.39 $14,450 transferred to Account No. 333.3. Work under this Account will start after the completion of BPR contracts for roads in the Flamingo Area.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

• BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES

• NEW MONUMENTS AND TRAILS

AREA BUDGET ITEM (INCLUDE OTHER AREA ON SEPARATE SHEETS)	ITEM NO	ORIGINAL ESTIMATE	CURRENT ESTIMATE NOT TO EXCEED AUTHORITY	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Shenandoah National Park Thornton Gap, Skyline Drive and Site Development, Stanford Account No. 1214.2	5-00001	$[illegible] 2000	$[illegible] [illegible]/[illegible]	69	1 Contract - Job [illegible] Total Inspection on Contract [illegible] - [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] on [illegible]. [illegible] and [illegible] of [illegible]. [illegible]. [illegible] Inspection and [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible]
Glacier NP Chalet Account No. 1214.4	5-00[illegible]	2000	[illegible] [illegible]/[illegible]	19	1 Contract [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].
Yellowstone, Tower to Grand Canyon Account No. 1214.6	5-00[illegible]		[illegible] [illegible]/[illegible]	30	Estimate [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] No. [illegible].
Yellowstone Development, Tower Area Account No. 1214.7	5-00[illegible]-1		[illegible] [illegible]/[illegible]	69	Estimate $[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] No. [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Account [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES

* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

REGION One

REPORT FOR Month January 1956

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Water System, Flamingo Account No. 332.1	U-30	3012	$59,500 7/20/55	0%	Balance $57,744.70 Purchase Order dated January 16, 1956 was issued to Washington office to procure, through channels, a water tank trailer and prime mover. The well site will be located and access road started in February
Addition to FM Radio System Account No. 332.5			$44,965 8/18/54	70	C-DL Balance $5,054.84 $2,500 transferred to Account 333.3. All radios received and most of them installed.
Test Wells, Concrete Bridge	U-19-1	2095	$ 2,760 5/6/54	98	C-DL Balance $329.90 Further salinity tests will be made.
Power System, Flamingo Account No. 332.11	U -28-1		$ 6,035 8/18/54	0%	Balance $6033.32 Method of power source under consideration.

Sixth Street, Plumbing Renewal Div. 1971	4-32	1968	$[illegible] 31/12/70	0%	Balance $[illegible]. Tenders were sought in January 69. 1968 was lowest by [illegible]. Through economies, a later less lavish and cheaper scheme. The well-site will be leased and owner [illegible]
Addition to TV Radio Studio Renewal Div. 1967	—	—	[illegible] 31/12/70	70	C-2. Balance [illegible]. $2,000 transferred to General [illegible]. All minor remaining work now is done internally.
Tank Stills, Chemical Building	[illegible]	[illegible]	$ [illegible] 31/12/70	99	C-2. Balance $[illegible]. Tender minority tanks will be made.
Power Stills, Plumbing Renewal Div. 1971	[illegible]	[illegible]	$ [illegible] 31/12/70	100	Balance $[illegible]. Making of lower storage water [illegible].

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REPORT 705

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

FORM 10-24

REPORT FOR January 1956
MONTH YEAR

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

REGION One

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	PCP NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED / PROG.APPVD	CONTRACT EXECUTED / WORK START	% COMPL.	REMARKS
Everglades National Park Park highway from Flamingo Sta. 2190+00 to Sta. 150+00 a distance of approx. 27 miles, including a bridge at Flamingo; grading and bit. surfacing.	R-14-4	Apprvd. 1954 $100,000; 1955 929,000; 1955 357,500; 1956 969,700; $2,356,100			
Project 1A1 Contract No. 14-10-0100-439 Brinson Constr. Co.	R-14-4		3/29/55 6/20/55	100	Final inspection was made on January 11, 1956 by B.P.R., contractor and park personnel. Letter dated Jan. 13 was forwarded by Mr. Cron, B.P.R. District Engineer, to his Washington office recommending acceptance of the work under this contract. Preliminary amount and subject to Final check a total of 577,000 cu. yds. of rock was dredged and at the contract unit price of $.796 per cu. yd. the total cost is $698,092. 60,000 cu. yds. of rock from this contract was stockpiled for N.P.S. use. Original amount of contract was 750,000 cu. yd.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

FORM 10-24

REPORT FOR January (MONTH) 1956 (YEAR)

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

REGION ~~One~~

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	PCP NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED / PROG. APPVD	CONTRACT EXECUTED / WORK START	% COMPL.	REMARKS
Project 1A2-6A1 Contract No. 14-10-0100-546 R. H. Wright & Son	B-14-4	[illegible]	7/26/55 10/5/55	30	Clearing is [illegible] complete, muck removed about 75% and [illegible] of canal rock filled. 60% of marl removed from parking areas and placement of marl road embankment started. [illegible]% of rock embankment is completed.
Project 1A5 Contract No. 14-10-0100-534	B-14-4		12/1/55 1/13/56	5	Clearing is [illegible]% complete and muck excavation 10% complete. The rock borrow pit operation has started with construction roads built and drag line stockpiling rock. Work order A, dated Jan. 17, 1956, was issued to include West Lake Parking Area.
Project 1A6	B-14-4				Director approved plans and specifications on January 6, 1956. Request for Bids was advertised Jan. 12 and opening of bids on Feb. 10, 1956 at Superintendent's office.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REPORT 7[illegible]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

FORM 10-24

REPORT FOR January 1956
MONTH YEAR

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

REGION One

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	PCP NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED / PROG. APPVD	CONTRACT EXECUTED / WORK START	% COMPL.	REMARKS
Project 1A7 1A8					From Station 150+ to Station 12[illegible]+ [illegible] or the connection between project 1A6 and Project 1A4-4A1-5A1-5[illegible]A1-[illegible].P.R. survey crew working and approximately 30% complete. Landscape Architect representative from [illegible] working directly with project engineer in charge of survey in regard to selection of route of proposed highway.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REPORT 745

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

FORM 10-24

REPORT FOR January 1956
MONTH YEAR

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

REGION One

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	PCP NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED / PROG.APPVD	CONTRACT EXECUTED / WORK START	% COMPL.	REMARKS
Everglades National Park Park Highway from Flamingo Sta. 2190+00 to Sta. 150+00 a distance of approx. 27 miles, including a bridge at Flamingo, grading and bit. surfacing.	R-14-4	Appvd. 1954 $100,000 1955 929,900 1955 357,500 1956 968,700 $2,356,100			
Project 1A1 Contract No. 14-10-0100-439 Brinson Constr. Co.	R-14-4		3/29/55 6/20/55	100	Final inspection was made on January 11, 1956 by B.P.R., contractor and park personnel. Letter dated Jan. 13 was forwarded by Mr. Gron, B.P.R. District Engineer, to his Washington office recommending acceptance of the work under this contract. Preliminary amount and subject to Final check a total of 877,000 cu. yds. of rock was dredged and at the contract unit price of [illegible].796 per cu. yd. the total cost is $698,092. 60,000 cu. yds. of rock from this contract was stockpiled for B.P.R. use. Original amount of contract was 750,000 cu. yd.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REPORT 7E2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT FOR January (MONTH) 1956 (YEAR)

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

PROJECT TITLE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	PCP NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED / PROG. APPVD	CONTRACT EXECUTED / WORK START	% COMPL.	REMARKS
Project 1A2-6A1 Contract No. 14-10-0100-546 R. H. Wright & Son	E-14-4		7/26/55 10/5/55	30	Clearing is 99% complete, muck removed about 75% and 80% of canal rock filled. 60% of marl removed from parking areas and placement of marl road embankment started. 40% of rock embankment is completed.
Project 1A5 Contract No. 14-10-0100-594	E-14-4		12/1/55 1/13/56	5	Clearing is 95% complete and muck excavation 10% complete. The rock borrow pit operation has started with construction roads built and drag line stockpiling rock. Work order A, dated Jan. 17, 1956, was issued to include West Lake Parking Area.
Project 1A6	E-14-4				Director approved plans and specifications on January 6, 1956. Request for Bids was advertised Jan. 10 and opening of bids on Feb. 10, 1956 at Superintendent's office.

File
with attachment

Summary of the February 1956 Monthly Narrative Report for EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

		Page
WEATHER:	Sunny days with pleasant temperatures. Continued drought.	1
TRAVEL:	31,231 visitors at park for month. Boat visitation also increased.	1
VISITORS:	February brought many valuable friends to the park.	1
PERSONNEL:	Six personnel actions taken. Federal Personnel Council meeting attended.	2
COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES:	Meeting with Coast Guard to discuss aids to navigation. Assistance given to Homestead Air Force Base to locate survival training site. Personnel participating in daily Operation "Skywatch" for Ground Observer Corps.	2
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:	Overworked naturalist staff made 91,189 interpretive contacts.	2
GENERAL PUBLICITY:	Excellent feature article on park and Ranger Barnie Parker in Sports Illustrated.	3
PUBLIC RELATIONS:	Luncheon attended for opening of Everglades City boat trips. Public hearing held on flood control plan. Meeting with representatives of Miccosukee Seminole Nation and their attorneys. Helped form Redlands Audubon Society for Homestead area.	3
RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:	Best roseate spoonbill year so far. East River rooker reforming after disastrous January freeze. Lack of small fish and organisms brings attempts by birds to smaller bigger fish than themselves (almost).	4

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		Page
NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION:	Records sales made in month. Election of new chairman and treasurer.	4
PROTECTION AND RANGER SERVICE:	Eleven areas closed to protect alligators during vulnerable season. Rangers rescued blood poisoning victim. Reckless driving by contractors' employees cracked down on. Night patrols made to investigate report of stop netting. Patrol mileage 14,722.	4
MAINTENANCE:	Shop operations behind schedule because of height of season demands.	5
FIRE PROTECTION:	Three fires burning total of 660 acres all outside the park. Allotment received for on additional fire control aid. Critical fire conditions becoming "explosive."	5
PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS:	Boundary surveys made. Two layout plans prepared by EODC approved. Preliminary surveys of road 1A6 northward completed.	7
NEW CONSTRUCTION:	Marine Service Building at Flamingo moving ahead.	7
CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS:	Meeting on review of final estimates of material on Contract 14-10-111-43. 43.	7

In reply refer to:
A2823

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
P. O. BOX 275
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
February 1956

General

Weather Conditions: Ideal weather prevailed for park visitation, sunny days with pleasant temperatures. Park precipitation of .87 inches was considerably below the February mean of 1.64 inches, continuing the current drought--a marked contrast to the comparative deluge of 5.70 inches occurring in February 1941. Readings from stations follow:

	Max. Temp	Mean Max	Min. Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm Station	87°	80.7°	42°	56.5°	0.95"
Coot Bay Station	85°	80.4°	51°	59.4°	1.22"
Tamiami Station	88°	80.2°	46°	58.2°	0.58"
Florida Bay Station	83°	79.1°	57°	67.7°	0.74"

Increase in Travel: A total of 31,231 persons visited the park during the month, an increase of 2.2% over February 1955. Visitors by boat to Lostman's River and to Florida Bay via the Keys increased approximately 11% over the corresponding month a year ago. All states were represented in addition to 7 Canadian provinces and 4 foreign countries.

Visitors: Admiral and Mrs. Jewell

Mr. and Mrs. Raynor S. Judd of Fosters, Michigan (longtime friend of Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey)

Mr. and Mrs. James Marshall of New York City (Mr. Marshall is a member of the Council of the Wilderness Society)

Mr. John Baker, President, National Audubon Society

Mr. and Mrs. David Canfield, Chief of Operations, Region Three, National Park Service

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Masland of Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Gunnel, cinematographer of New York

Administration

Personnel: Personnel actions for the month of February 1956 were as follow:

John S. Scudder was given a temporary appointment as fire control aid effective February 12. This action terminated his temporary appointment as laborer.

Robert W. Topp was given a temporary appointment as fire control aid effective February 12.

Ralph E. Miele was reassigned from fire control aid (dispatcher-seasonal) to supervisory fire control aid (permanent).

Deane M. Shilts transferred to Blue Ridge Parkway as Park Ranger, GS-5, effective February 19.

Montrey D. Taylor was reassigned from Administrative Aid to Personnel Assistant effective February 26.

Joseph B. Bryant was reassigned from park ranger to ranger-naturalist effective February 26.

Personnel Assistant Taylor and Assistant Superintendent Fry attended the Federal Personnel Council meeting in Miami on February 14.

Cooperative Activities

Cooperation with Other Federal, State or Local Agencies: The Superintendent and Chief Ranger met with Captain De Martino of the Seventh Coast Guard District and members of the staff in charge of Aids to Navigation on February 21 to discuss the installation of required aids in park waters. At the meeting, the question of jurisdiction was raised with respect to the responsibility of each agency in the establishment and maintenance of the aids in the park. As the matter could not be resolved locally, it was referred by the Superintendent to the Director.

Assistance was given Master Sergeant Kohl of the Survival Training Unit, Homestead Air Force Base, by District Rangers Winte and Mrazek to find a suitable area outside the park for survival training by base personnel, the program to be initiated about June 1.

Park Protection Personnel are participating in the Ground Observer Corps' Operation "Skywatch" that went into effect on a daily basis beginning February 1.

Interpretive Activities and Developments

Interpretive Services: The park interpretive staff of two permanent naturalists and three seasonal ranger-naturalists practically knocked themselves out giving interpretive services in February. Forty-four programs were scheduled each week. Guided walks were made by 3,141 people. A general interpretive talk (each afternoon at 2:15) was heard

by 2,264 visitors. The evening talks at Royal Palm seemed to suffer because the road from town is in such foul shape. Only 521 attended. At Everglades City (see photo) evening talks twice a week only, drew 782 persons. The ever popular night prowls once a week were attended by 197 hardy visitors. Night flights at Anhinga Trail were not too good although 1,226 people showed up for the lectures. All in all, including unmanned interpretive stations and several talks outside the park, 91,189 interpretive contacts were reported.

General Publicity: A feature article with excellent color pictures was in the February 20 issue of Sports Illustrated magazine. It was about Ranger Barnie Parker, well-deserved recognition for an outstanding job being done in the remote areas of the park.

Public Relations: On February 29, the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent went to Everglades City as guests of Barron Collier to assist in preparing the way for guided boat trips. A luncheon meeting was attended by newspaper reporters and editors from both the east and west coasts of Florida and representatives of Trailway Bus Lines. Later on, a guided boat trip took the group over the route to be activated March 1. The object, of course, was to gain the cooperation and understanding of key people in the so-called "Western Water Gateway" and the proposals before the State on completion of park boundaries.

The Superintendent participated in a public hearing on February 20 relative to the flood control plan for Dade County. Engineer Shenker was with him. It was held at Dade County Auditorium by the Commissioners of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District, led by Chairman Cox, and the Corps of Engineers, led by Lt. General Charles Holley. The Superintendent expressed the Service's desires in general in relation to the flood control program for the first time at a large public meeting on the subject.

Jimmie Billie, Junior Medicine Man and member of the General Council of the Miccosukee Seminole Nation conferred with the Superintendent on relations between the Seminoles and the park. In attendance also were interpreters Buffalo Tiger and Billie Doctor and counsels for the General Council, Morton Silver and George Miller. The position of the Service on hunting in the park was made clear and accepted. Also, the Service's position was clarified on the attorneys' hope to gain support for reimbursing Seminoles for alleged treaty violations throughout southern Florida. It was a matter for someone else to support and to settle.

The Superintendent and the Naturalist participated in the formation of a Redlands Audubon Society for the Homestead area, assisting Mrs. Eugene Smith (former president of the Florida Garden Clubs) at the meeting. The Superintendent was made a director of the society.

Research and Observation: Results of the annual roseate spoonbill count made by District Ranger Mrazek, Seasonal Ranger Bise, and Robert P. Allen of the National Audubon Society showed continued solid progress. It has been the best season in more than 20 years. The number of nesting pairs increased 23% and young reared 51%. There was a total of 214 nests, 466 young reared, 69 dead young (mortality highest in black mangrove habitat where they are more exposed to cold weather).

In the latter part of February there were signs that rookeries might reform after the disastrous January freeze. Birds had gathered again at East River and there was some evidence of nest construction by wood ibises and American egrets. A small crocodile was seen at the rookery site on several occasions.

The gradual drop of surface water this year with rainfall deficiency has just about spoiled the show at Anhinga Trail. Small fishes and other food organisms are so scarce that ludicrous situations arise as birds try to gobble down fishes far to large for them. Bird concentrations remained heavy at Shark-Broad headwaters and north of Tamiami Trail in Water Conservation Area No. 3 of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District.

The famous "black panther" of Snake Bight, reported on and off for years by park visitors, was seen by two rather amazed members of the naturalist staff. They reported it to be very definitely a dark, cat-like animal with a long tail. It was about one-half the size of a full grown cougar and seems not to be a jaguarondi as previously suspected.

Natural History Association: The Natural History Association set new records for sales during the month. Total sales of $1,846.21 were made and 1,000 of the newly introduced 35 mm. slides were sold.

The annaul meeting of the Everglades Natural History Association was held at Coral Gables, February 27. Assistant Park Naturalist David Karraker was elected Chairman and Mrs. Ida Heaton, wife of Administrative Officer Heaton, was elected Treasurer. At the annual meeting a resolution was passed favoring the plan of publishing Natural History bulletins when manuscript and funds become available.

Operations

Protection and Ranger Service: "Operation Alligator" was activated by the park rangers during February because that is the time of the year when the 'gators gather at river headwaters and are most vulnerable to commercial hide hunters. This year, it is hoped that the poaching will be stopped. One phase of "Operation Alligator" was to temporarily close off and post all 11 creeks at headwaters. This would also protect the large bird concentrations of the park's so-called "Vital Zone" at its most critical period. The action will help the enforcement work because it will be a violation for anyone to be in posted areas.

Reiner Myerowitz at the end of a two-week trip in the park by kayak was picked up by rangers on February 12 near Clearwater Pass in Whitewater Bay. Mr. Myerowitz, suffering blood poisoning from an injured foot, was brought to Coot Bay and from thence provided transportation to Homestead where urgent medical aid was given.

Rangers cracked down on speeding by contractor employees who had been disregarding safe driving practices. Operators' licenses were checked and personal contact made with each of the contractor's truck drivers with the result that the local "hot rods" became cautious and Ingraham Highway was once more comparatively safe for raccoons and rangers.

District Ranger Mrazek made night patrols into Blackwater and Long Sounds and to Crocodile Point to investigate reports of stop nesting and to check on other possible illegal activities, but no violations were discovered.

The following indicates patrol mileage occurring during the month:

Motor Vehicle	9,395
Boat	4,886
Airplane	320
Airboat	80
Glade Buggy	41
Total----------	14,722

Maintenance: Continued efforts were made on the Soil and Moisture Control program to haul fill material to close the north fork of Middle Cape Canal. So far, it has been too muddy to do much.

About 170 small trees and shrubs were moved from the proposed campgrounds site at Flamingo and transplanted to holding beds at the ranger station. Storm shutters were installed at that station also.

The shop operated behind schedule during February because of top-of-the-season demands. Two men had to go to "Chick-Chat" to pick up surplus stake body trucks.

Fire Protection: There were three fires during February, burning a total of 660 acres outside the park and none within. Two of the fires (debris burning) were caused by farmers and the third (miscellaneous) by a hunter. Also, assistance was given to Dade County Fire Patrol by the East Boundary patrolman on two wildfires.

An allotment of $1,200 in Forestry and Fire Control funds was received from the Region One Office, permitting employment of an additional fire control aid on February 12 and another on March 6.

Precipitation and water table remain below normal, continuing the critical forest fire conditions. This continues to be the park's worst year on fire hazard. The situation is definitely "explosive."

Design and Construction

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: The park staff made boundary surveys along a portion of the "Hole-in-the-Donut" line on Long Pine Key. Surveys of this area by Bureau of Land Management and the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, soon to be recorded, indicate on-the-ground changes of the park boundary. Boundary surveys at this time were nonetheless necessary to be certain that extensive clearing for agricultural purposes did not intrude onto Government lands.

The well site for the Flamingo water supply was located and its access road staked. Drawings are still to be finished.

Two layout plans prepared by EODC were approved: Typical Borrow Pit-Overlook Parking Areas, and Sewage Disposal System for the Marine Service Building at Flamingo. Preliminary suggestions were in process of development on the park's headquarters structure.

Coordinated B.P.R.-N.P.S. preliminary surveys of the route of the park road from 1A6 northward around Long Pine Key were completed. These surveys tried to take all factors into account to enhance visitor experience in the park.

New Construction: The concessioners' Marine Service Building at Flamingo was moving ahead rapidly. At month's end block walls were up, beams paired; roof beams and trusses were in place. The excavation for the septic tank and tile field was completed.

(See attached form 10-24 for other construction.)

Conferences and Meetings: Meeting was held at headquarters on February 9. Present were George W. Fry, Assistant Superintendent; N. Shenker, Engineer; James M. Stump, Resident Engineer; and E. Cothron, Contractor. The conference covered review of final estimates of material on Contract No. 14-10-111-43. Quantities were agreed upon and formed basis of final estimate and payment.

Several conferences were held with Everglades Park Co. officials concerning the Public Service Building proposed at Flamingo.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES
* ~~NPS ROADS AND TRAILS~~

REGION One

REPORT FOR ~~February 1956~~ Month Year

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Water System, Flamingo Account No. 332.1	U-30	3012	$59,500 7/20/55	0%	Balance - $49,317.31 Well and access road delayed. It is expected to start in March.
Addition to FM Radio System Account No. 332.5			$44,965 8/18/54	70	C-DL Balance $5,054.84 $2,500 transferred to Account 333.3. All radios received and most of them installed.
Test Wells, Concrete Bridge Account No. 332.10	U-19-1	2095	$ 2,760 5/6/54	98	C-DL Balance $329.90 Further salinity tests will be made.
Power System, Flamingo Account No. 332.11	U-28-1		$ 6,035 8/18/54	0%	Balance $6,033.32 The need for power in the Flamingo Developed Area will be for sometime.

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES

* NON-ROADS AND TRAILS

Area Project Unit Location Water Unit, and Project Number	Job No.	Working Drawing Status	Contract Amount Date of Start Completed	% Complete	Remarks
Greenleaf National Park					
Oak-d Graham, Flamingo Account No. 330.1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] - [illegible] Well and sewer road [illegible]. It is expected to start in [illegible].
Addition to [illegible] Water System Account No. 330.3			[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] [illegible] to account 330.3. All water required and [illegible] of this installed.
[illegible] Hills, [illegible] Account No. 330.13	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Water [illegible] will be made.
[illegible] Graham, Flamingo Account No. 330.11	[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] The road for [illegible] in the Flamingo [illegible] area will be for [illegible].

* Check out the one not being used

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES
* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

REGION One

REPORT FOR ~~February 1956~~

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Dredgings, Filling, Bulkheading and Site Preparation, Flamingo Account No. 333.3	M-15-1	2141, 2142, 3005	$244,256.47 5/24/54	100	C Balance $941.52 All work completed and completion report in process.
Piers at Flamingo Account No. 333.4	M-55	3006	$ 6,035 8/18/54	100	C Balance - $0.00 Completion report in process.
Waterway, Shark to Broad River Account No. 333.5	M-6-2		$ 14,025 8/17/54	0%	Balance Red $8.16 Funds transferred to Account No. 333.3
Landscape Development, Flamingo Account No. 333.6	M-52-1		$ 19,040 8/18/54	0%	DL-Balance $1,865.52 Trees and shrubs growing in the Flamingo Area being root and top pruned in preparation for future use. Major portion of work will start after completion of BPR contract in Flamingo area.

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES

MPC ROADS AND TRAILS

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Thermalaire Equipment Yard Maintenance Utility Extension [illegible] Operations Training Contract No. 3123-3	U-23-1	[illegible]	[illegible]	100	[illegible]
Entry at Thermalaire Contract No. 3123-5	U-30	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Entrance, Gate 1, Thermal Drive Contract No. 3123-3	U-8-2	[illegible]	[illegible]	20	[illegible]
Maintenance Warehouse, Pitchman Contract No. 3123-2	U-23-4	[illegible]	[illegible]	10	[illegible]

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* ~~BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES~~

REGION One

* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

REPORT FOR February 1956
Month Year

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. 523.1	R-35-1	2129 - G	$65,600 8/3/55	0	Balance $65,597.26 NPS roads and parking areas will be constructed in conjunction with BPR contract for roads at Flamingo
Anhinga Trail Account No. 523.2	R-24-1	2124-G	$18,000 8/3/55	0	Balance $12,502.86 Work is expected to be started in April
Utility Road & Court, Pine Island Account No. 523.4	R-10-2	2116-A	$ 3,040 8/3/55	0	Balance $2,997.79 Work is expected to be started in March
Nature Trails, Paradise Key Account No. 523.5	R-23		$ 3,040 8/3/55	85	DL-Balance $1,233.82
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. 323.9 Account No. 523.9	R-35-1	2129-G	$ 75,520 8/19/54	0	C-Balance $70,620.38 Use of material from rock stockpile on roads and parking areas is dependent upon completion of BPR contract at Flamingo

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

BUILDINGS AND AIRFIELDS

WAYS ROADS AND TRACKS

[illegible]	File No	Previous Payment [illegible]	Amount Allotted [illegible]	% Complete	Remarks
Commissioner Quartermaster Corps Electric Arrow Indicators, Washington Account No. 5723-1	B-23-1	[illegible]	$[illegible]	4	Balance $[illegible] Six trucks and loading areas will be constructed in conjunction with the new contract for trucks & Platforms
Antelope Field Account No. 5723-2	B-24-1	[illegible]	$[illegible]	2	Balance $[illegible] Item to be expended at the option of the Sqdr.
Military Road & Depot, Pine Island Account No. 5723-4	B-26-1	[illegible]	$ [illegible] $[illegible]	8	Balance $[illegible] Item to be expended to the greatest in Manila
Service Tracks, Nanakuli Dump Account No. 5723-5	B-27		$ [illegible] $[illegible]	85	Balance $[illegible]
Quartermaster Depot Buildings, Pearl Harbor Account No. 5723-6 Account No. 5723-7	B-28-1	[illegible]	$ [illegible] $[illegible]	4	Balance $[illegible] One of authorized three wings completed and occupied; other three wings completed, but painting and electrical work remain to be completed. Contract for completion of [illegible]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

FORM 10-24

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

REPORT FOR February (MONTH) 1956 (YEAR)

REGION One

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	PCP NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED / PROG.APPVD	CONTRACT EXECUTED / WORK START	% COMPL.	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Park Highway from Flamingo Sta. 2190+00 to Sta. 150+00 a distance of approx. 27 miles, including a bridge at Flamingo, grading and bit. surfacing.	R-14-4	Appvd. 1954 $100,000 1955 929,900 1955 357,500 1956 968,700 $2,356,100			
Project 1A2-6A1 Contract No. 14-10-0100-546 R. H. Wright & Son	R-14-4		7/26/55 10/5/55	35%	Entire canal on this contract cleared, muck excavated & rock filled except for 500 ft. which will be completed in a few days. 750 feet of utility road is rocked for 1st layer. Under date of 2/17/56 the Director's office concurred in BPR to handle Picnic & Campground roads & parking areas by work order to contractor. BPR have started staking of Picnic & Campground areas.
Project 1A5 Contract No. 14-10-0100-594	R-14-4		12/1/55 1/13/56	10	Of the 3.977 miles of road under contract & all lying in canal, 1.5 miles has been muck excavated & 1000' has been rock filled. Clearing is 95% complete. The

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

FORM 10-24

REPORT FOR February 1956
MONTH YEAR

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

REGION One

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	PCP NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED / PROG. APPVD	CONTRACT EXECUTED / WORK START	% COMPL.	REMARKS
Project 1A5 (continued)					rock borrow pit is in full operation with 3 large draglines operating and 1 more to be added next week. It appears that the contract may be completed well before the 270 days alloted.
Project 1A6	R-14-4				Bids opened Feb. 10, 1956. 6 bids received with low bid of $406,650 by Central Florida Construction Co. Riviera Beach, Fla. 2/13/56 RDDC recommended approval to Director & 2/17/56 Director's office advised Ass't Secretary of Interior that award of contract to low bidder will be approved.
Project 1A7 1A8	R-14-4				Survey work by BPR is about 80% complete on 1A8 and 30% on 1A7
Project 1A4-4A1-5A1-50A1	R-7-2				1A4-From park boundary, 0/00 to Sta. 150/00. 4A1 starts at Sta. 144 to 0 on 1A4 to Royal Palm R. Station. 5A1 starts at Sta. 56/00 on 4A1 to Ingraham Highway. 50A1 starts at Sta. 44/00 on 1A4 and ends at Ingraham Highway road to Pine Island. Survey work on 4A1 & 5A1 is 95% complete due to changes on original survey & plans which were 100% complete. Taylor Slough bridge plans are originating from RDDC.

Evening Naturalist Program under way at Everglades City. (Benches, screen, light effects, and coconut palms by courtesy of local interests.)

CAREY-LEA LIBRARY

In reply refer to:
A2823

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
P. O. BOX 275
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

March 2, 1956

A2823

Memorandum

To: Superintendent

From: Assistant Superintendent

Subject: Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report

General

Miscellaneous: Board of Survey was conducted on February 3.

Administration

Personnel: Personnel actions for the month of February 1956 were as follows:

Maude C. Harriott was reassigned from Cost Clerk to Voucher and Payroll Clerk effective January 29.

John S. Scudder was given a temporary appointment as fire control aid effective February 12. This action terminated his temporary appointment as laborer.

Robert W. Topp was given a temporary appointment as fire control aid effective February 12.

Ralph E. Miele was reassigned from fire control aid (dispatcher-seasonal) to supervisory fire control aid (permanent).

Deane M. Shilts transferred to Blue Ridge Parkway as Park Ranger, GS-5, effective February 19.

Montrey D. Taylor was reassigned from Administrative Aid to Personnel Assistant effective February 26.

[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Joseph B. Bryant was reassigned from Park Ranger to Park Ranger-Naturalist evvective February 26.

Personnel Assistant Taylor and Assistant Superintendent Fry attended the Federal Personnel Council meeting in Miami on February 14.

George W. Fry
Assistant Superintendent

GWFry:mrb

Files
with attachments

A28

Summary of the March 1956 Monthly Narrative Report for EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

		Page
WEATHER:	Drought situation headed for an alltime low. Park alert to major conflagrations.	1
TRAVEL:	4.8% increase over March 1955.	1
VISITORS:	This month saw many prominent visitors.	2
PERSONNEL:	Engineer Shenker separated by death. In-service training given on performance rating. Federal Personnel Council meeting attended.	2
SAFETY AND HEALTH:	Two auto accidents. No personal injuries occurred.	2
BUILDING FIRE CONTROL:	House trailer destroyed by fire.	3
COOPERATING FEDERAL-LOCAL AGENCIES:	This agency assisted State Highway Patrol and Dade County Sheriff's department in several motor accidents. Florida State Board of Health inspected Flamingo area and initiated study of mosquito infestation. Base map provided Florida Forest Service.	3
COOPERATING NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES:	Conference at Seminole Indian Village. Key Largo businessmen's meeting.	3
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:	Boat trips at Everglades City begun. Total interpretive contacts for month was 91,985.	4
PUBLIC RELATIONS:	Superintendent gave talk to Kiwanis. Complaints on lack of overnight housing in park mounting.	5
RESEARCH AND OBSERVATIONS:	Alarming water shortage at Anhinga Trail. Nesting resumed at Cuthbert and East River Rookeries. Unreported physiographic features investigated. Recommendations on research outline for park and Australian pine problem submitted by Dr. Robertson. Three new birds species added to park list.	6

		Page
PROTECTION:	New U. S. Commissioner appointed.	6
	Rumors of alligator poaching received.	
	Patrol mileage for month was 17,484.	7
FIRE CONTROL:	Park personnel on alert status for fire. Tamiami Trail fire burned about 1,360 acres in park.	7
MAINTENANCE:	Contract awarded for repainting personnel quarters at Pine Island residential section of park.	8
PLANS, MAPS AND SURVEYS:	Preliminary plans for Visitor Services Building approved. Sites and layout outlines for oolite borrow pits for 1A6 determined.	9
NEW CONSTRUCTION:	Marine Service Building 70% complete. Project 1A2-6A1, park road, 44% complete. Project 1A5 of park road, 90% complete. Project 1A6 of park road is 0.5% complete.	9

In reply refer to:
A2823

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
P. O. BOX 275
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK March 1956

General

Weather Conditions: The drought situation has become critical. Lake Okeechobee, the "barometer" of the Everglades appears to be headed for an alltime low according to the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District. The 1945 low (year Paradise Key burned) will certainly be passed, and there is every indication that the record drought year of 1932 will be topped before it is over.

Water levels in the park were at the lowest since this area was made a national park. Food organisms supporting the park's wildlife are disappearing. Large areas where years of fire protection have protected from burning are ready to explode at any moment into major conflagrations fed by accumulated debris that would "normally" have burned off.

Readings for the month are as follow:

	Max. Temp	Mean Max	Min. Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm Station	90°	82.2°	32°	51.2°	.04"
Coot Bay Station	86°	80.3°	43°	58.1°	.01"
Tamiami Station	89°	81.5°	38°	53.2°	.87"
Florida Bay Station	85°	79.8°	44°	67.4°	T

Increase in Travel: A total of 33,145 persons visited the park during March, an increase of 4.8% over the corresponding month in 1955 and 6.1% over February 1956. District Ranger Mrazek reports a 12% increase over the corresponding month a year ago in the number of boat visitors to his district, attributing this increase to (1) inaccessibility to Flamingo by road and (2) recent windy weather that forced many from the ocean side of the Keys to the calmer waters of Florida Bay. Park travel records for the month included motor vehicles from all states, five Canadian provinces and four foreign countries.

Visitors:

Dr. John Craighead, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Dee J. Nelson, Explorer's League, Montana
Lawrence Lermo, Border Patrol Agent, Tampa, Florida
Harry Yates, U. S. Weather Bureau Frost Warning Service, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Mr. and Mrs. Roy C. Wilcox, Executive President, International Silver Company, Meriden, Connecticut
Mr. and Mrs. Shomacher, Independence National Historical Park
Joseph Lippincott, publisher, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Administration

Personnel: On March 1 Assistant Superintendent Fry took Mr. Hames, Position Classifier, Homestead Air Force Base, on a tour of inspection in the park, interviewing personnel and looking over jobs and equipment to assist us in arriving at the proper WB and WF grades to establish comparative prevailing rates for Wage Board employees. Our recommendations were submitted to the Region and were approved on March 19, becoming effective March 25.

Mr. Carl R. Hoffmann, Jr., entered on duty as Seasonal Fire Control Aid, effective March 7.

Mr. Howard R. Copas' indefinite appointment was converted to career-conditional effective March 8.

Mr. Robert W. Carpenter, Seasonal Ranger-Naturalist, transferred to the permanent position of Park Naturalist Trainee, GS-5, at Yosemite National Park, effective March 10.

Mr. Charlie Ray Adside entered on duty as a laborer effective March 12.

Mr. L. M. Powell entered on duty as a WAE laborer at De Soto National Memorial, Bradenton, Florida, effective March 19.

Personnel Assistant Taylor and Assistant Superintendent Fry attended the Federal Personnel Council meeting in Miami on March 20. The main discussion was on the "Incentive Awards Program."

Mr. Nathan Shenker was separated by death on March 25.

An in-service training session on performance ratings for all rating and reviewing officials was conducted by the Assistant Superintendent on March 29.

Safety and Health: Two auto accidents occurred in the Royal Palm District and the contractor's trucks were involved in several minor accidents in the Cape Sable District. No personal injuries resulted.

The Flamingo construction camp, including house trailers, was inspected by Supervisory Park Ranger Borgman, B.P.R. Engineer Cates, and Foreman Smoak of the Wright Construction Company. Unsanitary conditions were noted and Foreman Smoak had to have these corrected promptly.

Building Fire Control: One of the house trailers in the Flamingo construction camp was destroyed by fire on March 24. The fire had advanced too rapidly for the trailer to be saved when park protection equipment arrived.

Cooperative Activities

Cooperation with Other Federal, State or Local Agencies: Mr. Richard Starr of the Florida State Board of Health inspected the sanitary setup at the Flamingo marina, especially the area around the marine service building currently under construction and development, reporting his findings to the Superintendent.

A park base map, including azimuth circles of the two park towers and Florida Forest Service tower at Princeton, was provided the State lookout for purposes of better orientation for that observer.

The Florida State Board of Health initiated a study of mosquito infestation along the north shore of Florida Bay from Jewfish Creek to Flamingo, the project to last most of the summer. Park rangers assisted the State personnel in learning their way around that part of the park in which they were interested.

Protection personnel in the Tamiami District assisted the State Highway Patrol and the Dade County Sheriff's department in several motor vehicle accidents along Route 41, Tamiami Trail. These State forces, in turn, helped us regulate traffic along the above highway during the park fire on March 25 and 26.

Cooperating Non-Governmental Agencies: An all-day conference was held March 24 at Jimmy Tiger's Indian Village on park lands for the purpose of establishing a reservation north of the Tamiami Trail for the Miccosukee Tribe of Seminoles. Present were officials from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, members of the Miccosukee Tribe and District Ranger Winte who represented the park. Nothing definite came of the meeting.

District Ranger Mrazek attended a meeting of Key Largo businessmen and citizens called for the purpose of establishing a volunteer fire department. Some progress was made in initiating such an association that would benefit the local community, including park property in this area.

Sand samples were collected from park beaches at Hog Key, East Cape Sable, and Shark Point and forwarded to Dr. Claire Patterson of the California Institute of Technology.

Interpretive Activities and Developments

Interpretive Services: During the month, 5 daily programs were scheduled in the Royal Palm area. Lack of birds at the Anhinga roost forced the cancellation of the "Nite Flite" program. At Everglades City, naturalist interpreted boat trips were scheduled four times daily--9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. In addition campfire programs at the campfire circle near the Rod and Gun Club were scheduled Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday evenings.

Boat trips at Everglades City were begun the first of the month. Attendance was surprisingly high; the reception rather mixed with some disappointed guests on the boats. Good interpretation was most important on these trips and much remains to be done to make them completely satisfactory. Advertising by concessioners appears to require a more realistic angle.

Evening programs at the Royal Palm continued to have disappointing attendance. It seems that until a much better road to the park is constructed or accommodations developed near the park entrance or both, the successful portion of the program at Royal Palm will be that directed toward the day use visitors.

The 2:15 p.m. talk given on the porch of the Royal Palm Station, though sometimes difficult to execute because of numerous distractions, continues to be the most successful and satisfying. During the month, the average attendance at this program was 61.5 individuals. The subject matter with quite an ecological slant has been well received.

Following is a statistical summary of attendance at various talks, walks, boat trips and self-guiding trails and stations:

A. Talks

1.	25 evening talks, Royal Palm	339
2.	12 evening talks, Everglades City	568
3.	5 night prowls	164
4.	31 2:15 talks, Royal Palm	1,971
5.	5 talks to Service organizations	521
6.	3 talks to special groups in park	148
	Total----------	3,611

B. Guided Walks and Boat Trips

1.	93 walks along Gumbo Limbo Trail	2,977
2.	3 walks to Anhinga Trail	92
3.	124 boat trips, Everglades City	2,900
	Total----------	5,969

C. Manned Interpretive Stations

1.	Royal Palm, 31 days	25,930

D. Self-Operating Stations and Trails

1.	Anhinga Trail	26,775
2.	Gumbo Limbo Trail	20,600
3.	Station 3, Cypress Head	9,100
	Total----------	56,475

Total Interpretive Contacts - 91,985
Total Park Attendance ------- 33,145

Public Relations: The Superintendent gave a talk to the Kiwanis Club of Miami at the "Top o' the Columbus" Hotel. Chief Ranger Campbell spoke before the Rotary Club of Homestead. The Superintendent also appeared at the final Screen Tour of the Tropical Audubon Society in behalf of the Youth Activities Program of that group.

Complaints about the decision not to have overnight housing at Flamingo were crystalized and encouraged by newspaper articles and editorials.

A delightful story of the park with unusually artistic pictures was in "Grace Log" put out by Grace Line. The title was "Rios de Hierba (River of Grass) Parque Nacional de Everglades."

Research and Observations: The continued drought has created an alarming water shortage at the Anhinga Trail. Only a very little water and wet mud remains. Unless rain comes soon, that whole area will dry up with a loss of all its aquatic life. The result of this loss will be apparent in following years.

Nesting activities of egrets and wood ibis in the Cuthbert Lake and East River rookeries were resumed during the month with both rookeries occupied by a full complement of nesting birds. A visit to the Cuthbert Rookery on March 28 found a few birds incubating and many carrying nesting material. Further distrubance of the rookeries by weather is unlikely, but drying of the rookery feeding areas threatens the success of nesting.

During the period February 28-March 1, Dr. Craighead and Dr. Robertson explored areas of high ground along the Broad and Rodgers Rivers, first reported by Ranger M. B. Parker, and found that these were occupied by extensive stands of hardwood hammock surrounded by mangroves. Because it was thought that these raised areas might be aboriginal sites, Dr. John M. Goggin, archeologist of the University of Florida and authority on south Florida pre-history, was contacted and the areas were revisited with him on March 30-April 1. Closer investigation revealed that the elevations were unreported physiographic features rather than Indian sites. Some of them appear to be old beach lines, others are presently unexplained but may represent natural levees or erosion remnants of a former marl plain.

Known Indian sites at Hamilton Mound and Onion Key were also visited and a small sample of potsherds and shell tools was collected by Dr. Goggin.

Memoranda containing recommendations in regard to the Australian pine problem and presenting a tentative research outline for the park were completed. Investigation of frost damage was continued and a number of woody plants showing frost injury were tagged in order that the course of recovery may be followed.

A summary of winter season bird records of note in the park area was completed and is to be submitted to Dr. Henry M. Stevenson, regional editor of Audubon Field Notes. Observations of interest were:

Three species added to the known list of birds of Everglades National Park: Snow goose, blue goose, and hooded warbler.

Large concentrations of avocets (450+) and white pelicans (1,500+) indicating an increase in populations of these species wintering in the park.

Five winter records of the white-crowned pigeon suggest that this species is becoming a regular winter resident. One seen at Rodgers River, March 31, represents one of the northernmost observations of this West Indian species.

Four crocodile nests were located in Florida Bay by District Ranger Mrazek during the month in addition to a den discovered on Butternut Key. District Ranger Senne observed another crocodile near the East River Rookery and Ranger Parker also reports a few crocodiles in his area. Past protection afforded these reptiles appears to be paying dividends.

The alligator show at Anhinga Trail is an exciting one. As many as 40 'gators larger than three feet have been seen from the boardwalk stirring up the mud and gulping down quantities of gar and other fish who have difficulty escaping in the current low water.

Ty Hotchkiss, currently photographing in the park, reported two sandhill cranes in flight over the paurotis palm station and Barney Parker noted several deer in the Lostman's River area.

A colony of 35 roseate spoonbills roosted in Rookery Branch most of the month, leaving toward the end of this period.

Operations

Protection and Ranger Service: During the month a new U. S. Commissioner was appointed. Attorney Ralph Jordan replaced Attorney Tommy Hodson whose term of office expired in February. The change, made by Federal Judge Emmet Choate, came as a surprise to the Superintendent and people in the Homestead community.

Rumors and advice were received that alligator poaching would shortly occur and steps were taken by Park Protection personnel to meet this annual threat.

Several night patrols were made individually by District Rangers Mrazek and Winte to safeguard against poaching and by District Ranger Bean to prevent vandalism, the latter attributable in the most part to juveniles.

During the month, former Commissioner Hodson fined a truck driver $20 for speeding through the Royal Palm-Anhinga Trail area. Two cases were heard by Commissioner Jordan involving (1) five minors charged with depredation of Government property and (2) a visitor charged with entering a closed area. All six persons charged were fined $15 each.

During the month Rangers Mrazek and Parker assisted on several occasions boatmen in park waters who were lost or aground.

Supervisory Park Ranger Borgman intercepted the Brown boys of Everglades about to commence commercial shrimping at their old stand in Lake Ingraham. Advised that this activity no longer was permitted the Browns packed and left the park.

Stop netting continues to be a problem in the Lostman's area as commercial fishermen occasionally sneak into this part of the park to carry on this illegal activity.

Patrol mileage was as follows:

Motor Vehicle	12,519
Boat	3,812
Airplane	1,125
Glades Buggy	28
Total-------	17,484

Fire Control: The "bust" fire did not come in March, but it is still expected. All park personnel remained on an alert status knowing that sooner or later something would happen. It is amazing that nothing serious has occurred yet in the "Everglades National Tinderbox." Good public relations is credited with preventing the "bust" so far. Meanwhile, assistance was given to Dade County Fire Patrol on five fires near the park. Two men were added to the fire staff in April bringing the largest number yet employed here into readiness.

One fire did occur which looked for a time as though "This is it." It started south of Tamiami Trail on March 25 and burned about 1,360 acres of grasslands and hammocks in the park. A Class A fire was suppressed near the proposed utility area at Flamingo.

Maintenance: Favorable conditions permitted maintenance crews working under S. & M. C. funds to block all canals in the Cape Sable area except Middle Cape Canal and East Cape Canal below Lake Ingraham. The maintenance crews "had a ball" for several days, dropping load after load in canals, then charging over the fill to the next one.

Yucca was removed from the Flamingo campgrounds site and transplanted to sites near the proposed bridge. Paurotis palms were taken from deadly 1A6's right-of-way and heeled in at the Rowdy Bend nursery.

A contract was awarded for repainting quarters occupied by the Superintendent, Chief Ranger, Assistant Superintendent, and seasonal personnel (bunkhouse). A contract was also let for stockpiling 1,000 cu. yds. of rock at 7-Mile Tower Road for maintenance of same. Meanwhile about 3,000 cu. yds. of rock was plowed and stockpiled at Long Pine Key pit.

The park shop was especially busy all month repairing electric plants, working on trucks transferred from the army, repairing Florida Bay's and Cape Sable's inboard crafts, fabricating a new boat trailer, and so on.

Design and Construction

Plans, Maps and Surveys: Preliminary plans were approved for the Visitor Services Building at Flamingo (restaurant, store, ranger station, and museum). This was Drawing NP-EVE-3020A. Negotiations were then started with Architect Harry Keck to begin working drawings for both the concessioner and the Service.

Sites and layout outlines for oolite borrow pits for park road project 1A6 (the section never recommended by the Superintendent) were determined with B.P.R. representatives.

Grades were set for marl fill at site of Flamingo's Visitor Services Building.

New Construction: Marine Service Building, concessioner construction is 70% complete: Roof completed; concrete floors poured; interior partitions, door jambs and bases set; plastering started; and electric wiring roughed in.

Park Road - B.P.R. Construction Projects: Project 1A2-6A1 by contractor R. H. Wright & Son, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is 44% complete. The entire canal has been cleared and the muck excavated and the rock filled. The first layer of oolite was placed on the utility road. Oolite embankment between Rowdy Bend and Flamingo Canal is complete. The embankment between the canal and the oolite stockpile is 65% complete. Work Order No. 1, which was approved by the Director's Office March 1, refers to the picnic and campground areas. Its estimated cost is $37,013.80.

Project 1A5 by contractor Blythe Bros. Co., Miami, Florida, is 15% complete. Clearing and grubbing is 90% complete, and the special marsh excavation is 46% complete. Unclassified excavation for borrow is 11% complete. Special overhaul of borrow is 5% complete. The first course of oolite has been placed in canal from Station 1590/00 to 1625/00.

Project 1A6 by contractor Central Florida Construction Co., Riviera Beach, Florida, is 0.5% complete. Notice to proceed was issued on March 14, the contract date to be date notice to proceed was received. The completion time is 270 calendar days. During the month the contractor moved in two draglines, 2 bulldozers, and 1 drill rig. Borrow pit no. 1 has been stripped and stockpiling started. Borrow pit no. 2 has been cleared and 1/3 stripped. Clearing and grubbing is 0.8% complete, and special marsh excavation is 0.8% complete. This section of road was never recommended by the Superintendent and is being constructed without his signature on plans.

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES

REGION One

* ~~NPS ROADS AND TRAILS~~

REPORT FOR March 1956 (Month / Year)

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Waterway, Shark to Broad River Account No. 333.5	M-6-2		$ 14,025 8/17/54	0%	Balance Red $8.16 Funds transferred to Account No. 333.3
Landscape Development, Flamingo Account No. 333.6	M-52-1		$ 19,040 8/18/54	5%	DL-Balance $4,369.93 $3,500 Transferred from Acct. 332.5
Water System, Flamingo Account No. 332.1	U-30	3012	$ 59,500 7/20/55	0%	Balance - $49,454.11 Access Road staked out.
Addition to FM Radio System Account No. 332.5			$ 44,965 8/18/54	70%	C-DL, Balance $1,554.84 $3,500 transferred to Acct. 333.6
Test Wells, Concrete Bridge Account No. 332.10	U-19-1	2095	$ 2,760 5/6/54	98%	C-DL, Balance $329.90
Power System, Flamingo Account No. 332.11	U-28-1		$ 6,035 8/18/54	0%	Balance $6,033.32

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* ~~BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES~~

REGION One

* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

REPORT FOR ~~March~~ Month ~~1956~~ Year

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. 523.1	E-35-1	2129 - G	$65,600 8/3/55	0	Balance $0.00 $65,597.26 Allotment withdrawn.
Anhinga Trail Account No. 523.2	E-24-1	2124 - G	$18,000 8/3/55	0	Balance $13,368.71
Utility Road & Court, Pine Island Account No. 523.4	E-10-2	2116 - A	$ 3,040 8/3/55	0	Balance $2,997.79
Nature Trails, Paradise Key Account No. 523.5	E-23		$ 3,040 8/3/55	85	DL-Balance $1,171.98
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. 323.9 Account No. 523.9	E-35-1	2129 - G	$75,520 8/19/54	0	Balance $39,517.25 $32,027.74 withdrawn by Regional office.

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

FORM 10-24

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

REPORT FOR March (MONTH) 1956 (YEAR)

REGION One

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	PCP NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED / PROG.APPVD	CONTRACT EXECUTED / WORK START	% COMPL.	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Park Highway from Flamingo Sta. 2190+00 to Sta. 150+00 a distance of approx. 27 miles, including a bridge at Flamingo, grading and bit. surfacing.	R-14-4	1954 $100,000 1955 929,900 1955 357,500 1956 969,700 $2,356,100			
Project 1A2-6A1 Contract No. 14-10-0100-546 R. H. Wright & Son	R-14-4		7/26/55 10/5/55	44%	Contract $511,796 Work order No. 1 approved by Director's office 3/1/56. Estimated amount of Work Order No. 1 - $37,013.80
Project 1A5 Contract No. 14-10-0100-594	R-14-4		12/1/55 1/13/56	15%	Contract $434,860
Project 1A6	R-14-4		2/27/56 3/14/56	.5%	Contract $406,650
Project 1A7 1A8	R-14-4			0%	Survey work by BPR in progress
Project 1A4-4A1-5A1-50A1	R-7-4			0%	Survey work by BPR in progress

Files (with attachment)

Summary of the April 1956 Monthly Narrative Report for EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

A2823

		Page
WEATHER:	Continued drouth.	1
INCREASE IN TRAVEL:	27.2% increase over same month last year.	1
VISITORS:	Park visited by many prominent people, including Assistant Secretary D'Ewart of the Interior Department.	2
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Equipment Survey Team visited park.	2
MISCELLANEOUS:	Two marriages, one birth and death to park personnel.	2
PERSONNEL:	Many personnel changes occurred during month.	2
SAFETY AND HEALTH:	Five automobile accidents investigated.	3
BUILDING FIRE CONTROL:	New timber to replace defective ones under fire pump at Coot Bay.	3
COOPERATION:	Wild Cotton Eradication Project work terminated for season. Air Force survival training program held in park. Assistance given to and received from Florida State Highway Patrol.	3
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:	High use of park by school groups during month. Interpretive program reduced greatly by furloughing of temporary personnel. Total interpretive contacts for month was 67,831.	4
RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:	Wildlife observation by park personnel. Biologist report on rookeries and observations of birds.	5

		Page
PROTECTION AND RANGER SERVICE:	"Operation Alligator." Stone crab season closed. Four boys found in park left in wilds of Flamingo for fraternity initiation. Another man rescued who had wandered in park for three days.	7
MAINTENANCE:	Several small jobs on park.	8
CONCESSIONERS:	National Audubon Society completed successful season in park.	8
FIRE PROTECTION:	Three reportable fires. Fire Critique held. Patrol mileage for month totalled 19,568 miles.	8
PLANS, MAPS AND SURVEYS:	Revised layout for Anhinga Trail completed. 1958 f.y. Project Completion Program tentative program completed. Revised MISSION 66 prospectus completed.	9
NEW CONSTRUCTION:	Marine Service Building 90% complete. Project 1A2-6A1 58% complete. Project 1A5 28.7% complete. Project 1A6 7% complete.	9

In reply refer to:
A2823

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
P. O. BOX 275
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
April 1956

General

Weather Conditions: The drouth continued with park precipitation of only 1.80" as compared with the average for this month of 3.17" continuing the comparative downward trend of rainfall for the calendar year. For the current fire season from November through April, park precipitation totalled 6.00", considerably below the park average of 10.14" for the corresponding period. In line with the drouth, the water gauge at Taylor Slough, installed in 1954, hit a low reading to date of -1.11' below sea level on the 25th. The water table became so low at the Anhinga Trail that only mud was exposed except for one small pond. Natives report that this has not occurred since 1932. An 18-foot well was drilled near the Anhinga Trail entrance from which water was pumped to the end of the boardwalk into Taylor Slough. The experiment worked successfully, the water level rising and probably preventing the total mass destruction of marine organisms and fish that would have occurred otherwise.

Readings from stations were as follow:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Ppt.
Royal Palm Station	91°	84.6°	45°	58.0°	1.19"
Tamiami Station	91°	84.1°	45°	56.3°	3.21"
Coot Bay Station	89°	83.7°	50°	63.2°	1.15"
Florida Bay Station	85°	81.3°	58°	69.3°	1.64"

Increase in Travel: A total of 29,456 persons visited the park in April. This is an increase of 27.2% over the same month last year and a decrease of 11.1% under March 1956. All states were represented except North Dakota and Wyoming as were three Canadian provinces and five foreign countries.

Visitors:

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Wesley D'Ewart
John Pennekamp, Editor, Miami Herald
Steve Trumbull, feature writer, Miami Herald
K. B. Walker, Florida Improvement Commission
General and Mrs. Rock, U.S.M.C. retired, Homestead, Florida
Benjamin Dane, WGBH-TV Channel 2, Boston, Massachusetts
Dr. and Mrs. A. M. Weckstein, Ford Foundation Fellowship
Rutgers University
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Langley, National Park Service, Washington Office
Mr. C. R. Seater, Examiner, Bureau of the Budget
Mr. Inaba, owner of most influential television station in Japan, here on invitation by State Department.

Special Activities: Assistant Secretary Wesley D'Ewart visited the park in regard to overnight accommodations.

Mr. Ralph Lipscomb, Highway Maintenance Engineer, Director's Office, and Mr. C. C. Watson, Regional Property and Procurement Officer, comprising the Equipment Survey Team, were in the park April 16 through 20.

Miscellaneous: There was a birth and death of a son to Mr. and Mrs. Al Ayers.

Dr. William B. Robertson, temporary biologist, was married to Miss Elizabeth Rice.

The daughter of Park Landscape Architect Webster T. Ammerman, Isabelle Ammerman, was married in the St. Johns Espiscopal Church to James Lander Allin.

Administration

Personnel:
Howard R. Copas was converted from indefinite appointment as Fire Control Aid (Seasonal) to career appointment effective March 8.

Charles K. Scott was given a temporary appointment as Laborer effective April 1.

Robert P. Allen received an excepted appointment (NTE 3 years) as Collaborator without compensation effective April 2.

Joseph B. Bryant, Seasonal Fire Control Aid, was promoted to Fire Control Aid (Dispatcher) GS-5, effective April 8.

George W. Fry, Assistant Superintendent, was promoted to GS-13 effective April 14.

Leroy F. Donahue, former Supply Clerk, was promoted to Accountant, GS-7, effective April 15.

Claude E. Adside's career conditional appointment was converted to a career appointment retroactive to February 3.

Vernon C. Gilbert, Jr., Seasonal Ranger-Naturalist, was furloughed effective April 21.

Maynard L. Hopfenspirger has been given a permanent excepted appointment (career conditional) as Laborer, terminating his temporary appointment as Laborer effective April 22.

Dwight T. Warren, Seasonal Ranger-Naturalist, was furloughed effective April 23.

Albert A. Ayers, Seasonal Fire Control Aid, was furloughed effective April 27.

Charlie Lee Tillman's career conditional appointment was converted to career appointment effective April 28.

Safety and Health: A truck driver employed by R. H. Wright & Son was painfully burned when he fell asleep in his car at Flamingo while smoking a cigarette. The injured man has recovered but the interior of the car was completely destroyed by fire.

Five automobile accidents were investigated of which four involved trucks driven by road construction workers. Other than for minor bruises, no one was injured although considerable damage to the vehicles resulted.

Building Fire Control: New timbers to replace defective ones were installed under the Chrysler-Hale fire pump at Coot Bay, this being the main unit for fire protection in the area.

Cooperative Activities

Cooperation with Other Federal, State, or Local Agencies: The Wild Cotton Eradication Project terminated their work for this season on April 23, closing camp at that time. The rangers reported favorably on the conduct of the men in this camp and on the work being conducted during this past season.

District Ranger Winte cooperated with Homestead Air Force Base men in their survival training program being held outside but close to park boundaries in the Tamiami District.

Tamiami District Ranger personnel assisted officers of the Florida Highway Patrol in two serious motor vehicle accidents on Route No. 41, Tamiami Trail. The officers in turn assisted the park in directing traffic on Route 41 during park fires in this vicinity.

Mr. Leonard Pardue of the United States Weather Bureau visited the Tamiami Ranger Station to service the hurricane warning equipment.

Interpretive Activities and Developments

Interpretive Services: District Ranger Senne and Robert Knight, Manager of Everglades Park Co., Inc., attending a supper meeting of the Islamorada Fishing Club, answered inquiries regarding the Flamingo Development and related park matters.

Assistant Superintendent Fry attended a luncheon meeting on April 25 held by the South Dade Motor Court Association.

The Superintendent gave four talks to organizations this month: The Youth Group for the Audubon Society at the Robert Clay Hotel; South Florida Garden Club at the Fairchild Tropical Garden; the Audubon Society of Bradenton; and the Tri Beta Biological Fraternity at the Roney Plaza.

Park visitation remained high during the first half of the month. A surprisingly large number of visitors especially teachers and college classes visited the park during the Easter vacation period.

Because all temporary personnel were furloughed by the middle of the month the regular program was reduced to a daily 2:15 p.m. talk and a 3:00 p.m. guided walk along the Gumbo Limbo trail. The Royal Palm Station was manned daily except on two Mondays and the naturalist on duty at Royal Palm was available for the many school groups that came during the month.

The following is a summary of visitor attendance at various activities in the park:

I. Conducted Walks and Talks	No.	Attendance
A. Gumbo Limbo Walk	35	1,352
B. 2:15 Talk	21	3,065
C. Royal Palm Evening Talk	1	47
D. Everglades City Evening Talk	2	79
E. Guided Boat Trips	21	702
F. Special Group Royal Palm	12	541

		No.	Attendance
1.	Treasure Island School		44
2.	S. Miami G.S.A. Troop 155		41
3.	S. Miami G.S.A. Troop 625		16
4.	Miami, Lakeview Elementary		36
5.	Tampa, B.S.A. Troop 89		18
6.	Homestead, Neva King Cooper		62
7.	Delray Beach, Elementary		41
8.	Key West, B.S.A. Troop 253		32
9.	Miami, Kensington School		120
10.	Coral Gables, Ponce de Leon High		41
11.	Coral Gables, Elementary		46
12.	Homestead, Cub Scouts		9
13.	Miami, G.S.A. Troop 29		35
G.	Programs in Nearby Area	2	111
1.	Labor Camp		70
2.	Homestead Art Group		41
	Total----------		5,907

II. Attendance at Manned Stations

Royal Palm Ranger Station	20,313

III. Attendance Non-Manned Stations

Anhinga	27,128
Gumbo Limbo Self-Guiding	14,642
Cypress Head	9,841

Total Visitation -------- 29,456

Total Interpretive Contacts---67,831

Research and Observations: District Ranger Senne and Supervisory Ranger Borgman observed a large alligator approximately 16' long in Rookery Branch going through some peculiar actions. The gator was submerged except for his tail, which seemed to drift listlessly above the surface of the water. At times the critter stayed under the water, except for his tail, for periods as long as 20 minutes. It made no attempt to escape when approached closely in a skiff but reacted violently when touched with an oar, rocking the boat dangerously and splashing the observers. It is unknown whether the gator was sick, wounded, or merely grubbing around the creek bottom seeking or burying food. The last possibility seems to be the most logical since the same alligator was observed earlier on the bank and appeared normal and healthy.

Ranger Parker has observed several sea cows in his area. These are the first manatees observed in the district in several months.

A flock of 24 spoonbills was seen at Stake Key by District Ranger Mrazek on April 6. Heretofore only a few have been seen there since the end of nesting more than a month ago.

District Ranger Mrazek reports crocodiles have been observed in Trout, Mud and McCormick Creeks. The crocodile nests mentioned in last month's report have been revisited with additional tracks and sandpiling in evidence.

Except for minor shower activity the drouth continues. Water became critically low in the Taylor Slough. The entire aquatic life present was concentrated in a few shallow pools. Alligators had an easy time catching fish and gorged themselves creating an exciting spectacle. To save the remaining aquatic life pumping was resorted to and successfully raised the water level by several inches. Though this process terminated the spectacular show, it will serve to save the important foundation of aquatic life in the slough.

The Park Biologist reports the following on rookeries and bird observations:

Rookeries: After an aerial survey on April 18 had revealed no birds in the Cuthbert Lake and East River rookeries, the biologist and Robert P. Allen of the National Audubon Society visited Cuthbert on April 19 and East River on April 20. A single snowy egret nest with small young was the only active nest in either rookery. Some wood ibis and American and snowy egrets had laid eggs in both rookeries during March and then deserted their nests, apparently before any eggs had hatched. Failure of the rookeries this year appeared to be due to the combined effects of the early January cold spell which disrupted the rookeries and delayed nesting activities about one month and to extremely low water levels on rookery feeding grounds along the southern edge of the Everglades. It has been a disastrous season for nesting herons and ibis throughout lower peninsular Florida. Reports from Corkscrew Swamp, Lake Okeechobee and Tampa Bay indicate that rookeries in these areas also failed in large part.

Bird Observations: Three species observed during the month, golden eagle, chimney swift, and blue grosbeak, seem to be new to the park list.

Blue grosbeaks and indigo buntings were present throughout the park in considerable numbers during most of April. These species usually migrate across the Gulf of Mexico and are seldom seen in south Florida. This year they were evidently pushed off course by westerly storms early in the month.

Pairs of sandhill cranes were seen several times during the month in sawgrass areas near the mangrove edge in the southern part of the park.

A single flamingo was feeding in West Lake on April 30 and a group of 3 was seen in Lake Ingraham about the same time.

Operations

Protection and Ranger Service: The first half of the month was devoted to "Operation Alligator," with a 24-hour watch being kept on the Shark River headwaters. Rangers remained aboard the cruiser staked out in the Tarpon Bay vicinity and worked the tributaries in skiffs. On April 18 the cruiser was laid up because of a faulty motor. Thereafter, skiff patrols to the Shark River area was made almost daily from Coot Bay.

During "Operation Alligator" no violations were noted, nor have reports been received of alligator poaching activities in the park this year. Ranger patrol, active in the area at all times of the day and night and being seen by boatmen from Everglades and other suspected poaching bases, has created a salutary effect.

Dump Keys were the base of operations for black mullet and trout fishermen. The market is good for both fish, attracting fishermen from as far away as Fort Meyer.

The stone crab season closed April 15, most of the traps being removed. Several abandoned traps were discovered and were made unserviceable by District Ranger Mrazek.

Jack Smith, an Everglades City commercial fisherman, was picked up by ranger personnel near Jennings plantation on April 10 after Smith had roamed around in the glades for three days following a drinking party with "friends." He was without shoes, having discarded them as uncomfortable. Brought to town, Smith secured a ride back to Everglades City.

Four college boys were left in the wilds of Flamingo during the early morning of April 21 as part of a fraternity initiation. Rangers helped them back to civilization.

Early morning and night patrols were made by park rangers in each district to prevent poaching and vandalism.

A drunken driving case was heard before U. S. Commissioner Ralph Jordan on April 13. Commissioner Jordan fined the man $115 and suspended his operator's license for thirty days.

Maintenance: Completed was a job of hauling 1,000 cubic yards of road rock to stockpile on 7-Mile Tower Road.

Painting contractor completed painting the superintendent's residence and started on the assistant superintendent's residence.

Two 6" x 20' wells were drilled, one at the Anhinga Trail parking area and the other at the southwest corner of the Pine Island utility area.

Concessioners: The National Audubon Society completed a good season of wildlife tours into Florida Bay on April 30, the bird show in this area having held up well.

Fire Protection: Three reportable fires burned approximately 125 acres inside the park, two being caused by land clearance and one by a glades buggy exhaust. Five small fires were extinguished by park patrolmen just outside the protection zone, all of them in the Tamiami District.

The bridge near the Anhinga Trail caught fire as a result of a carelessly tossed match or cigarette lodging between planks. The fire was extinguished by our patrolman before damage to the bridge resulted.

The East Boundary Patrolman assisted the Dade County Fire Patrol on one wildfire outside the park protection zone.

A Fire Critique was held on April 6 at the fire cache, covering primarily the Tamiami Trail fire originating March 25.

During the month two 50-ft. stalls were added to the fire cache so that now cover is provided for all mobile fire control units cached at Pine Island.

Patrol mileage is as follows:

Motor Vehicle	14,228
Boat	4,496
Airplane	800
Glades Buggy	44
Total----------	19,568

Because of critical fire conditions "No Smoking" signs were put up in the Royal Palm District.

Fire prevention literature recently received from the Regional Office was distributed in most part to park neighbors.

Design and Construction

Plans, Maps and Surveys: Revised layout plan, Interpretative Tour, Anhinga Trail, NP-EVE-2124-D, April 4, 1956, was completed and sent to EODC for review and comment.

Approval was withheld, April 27, 1956, of the Water Distribution System, Flamingo, Plan NP-EVE-3017-A, pending further study to determine a less obtrusive location for the 80-foot storage tank.

The Project Construction Program for 1958 fiscal year tentative program was completed.

MISSION 66 revised prospectus was completed.

New Construction: The Marine Service Building, a concessioner construction, is 90% complete. The building is complete except for ceiling, light fixtures, plumbing fixtures, and painting. Only rough excavation for sewage disposal system is completed.

Park Road, B.P.R. Construction Projects:

Project 1A2-6A1, Contractor R. H. Wright & Son, Fort Lauderdale, Florida: Contract 58% complete. During the month the contractor has practically completed the embankment between the beginning of the project and the Service Station site. Embankment at the utility area is 60% complete. The embankment at the campsite is 50% complete. Eight hundred feet of the 24" culvert pipe is on the job. Installation has been started. An extra work order, No. 2, dated March 19, for cutting holes in existing bulkheads for culvert pipes was approved; estimated cost $120. One (1) additional day is allowed for the completion of the contract.

Project 1A5, Contractor Blythe Bros. Co., Miami, Florida: Contract 28.7% complete. The special marsh excavation is 66% complete. Unclassified excavation for borrow is 25% complete. The first course of embankment (canal filling) is completed from Station 1590 to Station 1678.

Project 1A6, Contractor Central Florida Construction Co., Riviera Beach, Florida: Contract 7% complete. Clearing and grubbing (roadway) is 40% complete. The special marsh excavation is 25% complete, and the excavation borrow pit No. 1 is 50% stockpiled.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES
* ~~NPS ROADS AND TRAILS~~

REGION One

REPORT FOR April 1956
Month Year

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Waterway, Shark to Broad River Account No. 333.5	M-6-2		$ 14,025 8/17/54	0%	Balance Red $8.16 Funds transferred to Account No. 333.3
Landscape Development, Flamingo Account No. 333.6	M-52-1	3031	$ 19,040 8/18/54	10%	DL-Balance $3,915.64
Water System, Flamingo Account No. 332.1	U-30	3012	$ 59,500 7/20/55	0%	Balance - $49,694.11
Addition to FM Radio System Account No. 332.5			$ 44,965 8/18/54	70%	C-DL, Balance $1,554.84
Test Wells, Concrete Bridge Account No. 332.10	U-19-1	2095	$ 2,760 5/6/54	98%	C-DL, Balance $329.90
Power System, Flamingo Account No. 332.11	U-28-1		$ 6,035 8/18/54	0%	Balance $6,033.32

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

Everglades National Park					
Waterway, Shark to Broad River Account No. 333.5	[illegible]		$ 14,025 8/17/54	0%	Balance Bud $2.11 Funds transferred to Account No. 333.3
Landscape Development, Planing Account No. 333.8	[illegible]	3011	$ 12,040 8/18/54	10%	[illegible]
Water System, Planing Account No. 333.1	[illegible]	3012	$ 55,500 7/20/55	0%	Balance - [illegible]
Addition to [illegible] System Account No. 333.5			$ 44,[illegible] 8/12/54	[illegible]	[illegible], Balance $1,[illegible]
Tent Falls, Generate Bridge Account No. 333.13	[illegible]	[illegible]	$ 2,760 [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible], Balance $[illegible]
Power System, Planing Account No. 333.11	[illegible]		$ 6,[illegible] 8/18/54	[illegible]	Balance $6,[illegible]

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

~~BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES~~

* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

REPORT 7m5

REGION One

REPORT FOR April 1956 (Month, Year)

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. 523.1	R-35-1	2129 - G	$65,600 8/3/55	0	Balance $0.00 $65,597.26 Allotment withdrawn
Anhinga Trail Account No. 523.2	R-24-1	2124 - G	$18,000 8/3/55	0	Balance $14,348.71
Utility Road & Court, Pine Island Account No. 523.4	R-10-2	2116 - A	$ 3,040 8/3/55	30	Balance $2,667.79
Nature Trails, Paradise Key Account No. 523.5	R-23		$ 3,040 8/3/55	85	DL-Balance $1,171.98
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. 323.9 Account No. 523.9	R-35-1	2129 - G	$75,520 8/19/54	0	Balance $38,523.55

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] April [illegible]

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Averglades National Park					
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. [illegible]	R-[illegible]	[illegible] - [illegible]	[illegible] [illegible]	[illegible]	Balance $[illegible] [illegible] Allotment withdrawn
Anhinga Trail Account No. [illegible]	R-[illegible]	[illegible] - [illegible]	[illegible] [illegible]	[illegible]	Balance $[illegible]
Utility Road & Court, Pine Island Account No. [illegible]	R-[illegible]	[illegible] - [illegible]	$ [illegible] [illegible]	[illegible]	Balance $[illegible]
Nature Trails, Paradise Key Account No. [illegible]	R-[illegible]		$ [illegible] [illegible]	[illegible]	UL-Balance $[illegible]
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. [illegible] Account No. [illegible]	R-[illegible]	[illegible] - [illegible]	$[illegible] [illegible]	[illegible]	Balance $[illegible]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7[illegible]

FORM 10-24

REPORT FOR April (MONTH) 1956 (YEAR)

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

REGION One

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	PCP NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED / PROG. APPVD	CONTRACT EXECUTED / WORK START	% COMPL.	REMARKS
Everglades National Park Park Highway from Flamingo Sta. 2190+00 to Sta. 150+00 a distance of approx. 27 miles, including a bridge at Flamingo, grading and bit. surfacing.	R-14-4	1954 $100,000 1955 929,900 1955 357,500 1956 969,700 $2,356,100			
Project 1A2-6A1 Contract No. 14-10-0100-546 R. H. Wright & Son	R-14-4	$511,796	7/26/55 10/5/55	58%	Extra Work Order #2 Dated 3/19/56 Estimated cost $120
Project 1A5 Contract No. 14-10-0100-594	R-14-4	$434,860	12/1/55 1/13/56	28.7	
Project 1A6 Contract No. 14-10-0100-621	R-14-4	$406,650	2/24/46 3/16/56	7	Date actual construction started 3/8/56. 270 Calendar Days allowed.
Project 1A7	R-14-4			0	Survey Work in progress
Project 1A8	R-14-4			0	Survey Work completed
Project 1A4-4A1-5A1-50A1	R-7-4			0%	Survey work by BPR in progress

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* ~~BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES~~
* ~~NPS ROADS AND TRAILS~~
CONCESSIONS PROJECTS

REGION One

REPORT FOR April (Month) 1956 (Year)

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park Marine Service Building, Flamingo		8052	$35,000	90%	C and DL

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

One

[illegible]

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Everglades National Park Marine Service Building, Flamingo		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

File (with attachment

Summary of the May 1956 Monthly Narrative Report for EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

		Page
WEATHER:	Scattered showers help drouth situation a little.	1
DECREASE IN TRAVEL:	Florida summer travel increasing. Park monthly visitation down 6.4% from last year.	1
VISITORS:	Associate Director Scoyen and Regional Director Cox among visitors in May.	1
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Conference with USDA on fire weather forecasting. Field museum exhibit planning team worked with staff.	2
MISCELLANEOUS:	Police Chief(ex) involved in deer poaching case of last year now working in park on road construction crew.	2
PERSONNEL:	Chief Ranger Campbell selected to fill superintendency of Petersburg National Military Park.	2
SAFETY AND HEALTH:	Two automobile accidents.	2
BUILDING FIRE PROTECTION:	Standpipe installed in park for trucks of nearby fire departments in case of need.	2
COOPERATION:	USDA installed self-recording rain gage in park. Mosquito traps placed in park by Florida State Mosquito Control Unit, and Florida State employees helped park during visit of Outboard Club.	2
INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES:	Entomological collection begun. Total interpretive contacts was 25,628.	3
RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:	Value of herbicide tested in control of Australian pines. Check of trees tagged for study of frost damage made. Tern count made. Two new bird record made for park.	

		Page
PROTECTION AND RANGER SERVICE:	Night patrols made to check on report of alleged illegal shrimping. Two boats towed to safety. Three cases heard on minor violations. Total patrol mileage was 15,840 for month.	4
FISH ACTIVITIES:	Poor market prices stop black mullet fishing in Florida Bay.	5
FIRE PROTECTION:	Three reportable fires.	5
PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS:	Three plans approved.	6
NEW CONSTRUCTION:	Marine Service Building 95% complete. Project 1A2-6A1 64% complete. Project 1A5 43.6% complete. Project 1A6 25% complete.	6
CONFERENCE:	Met with Architect Keck on plans for Visiter Center Building.	6

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
P. O. BOX 275
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
May 1956

General

Weather Conditions: Scattered showers in May did not bring the Everglades country out of the drouth, but they helped some. The impending dry-up of Taylor Slough was prevented even though the slightly better water table was still -0.35 feet at the end of May. Park records show a May average of stations as 7.03 inches. May this year had only 1.03 inches as average.

Readings from stations were as follow:

	Max. Temp	Mean Temp	Min. Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm Station	95°	88.6°	61°	65.7°	1.45"
Tamiami Station	95°	89.2°	59°	65.0°	1.36"
Coot Bay Station	89°	87.4°	62°	68.2°	0.97"
Florida Bay Station	89°	86.0°	70°	75.6°	0.33"

Decrease in Travel: Miami was off to its biggest summer with almost all tourist indications in May giving evidence of increasing stability of the seasonal pattern. University of Miami statistics showed highest gains were evident in airline passenger traffic (arrivals up 37%).

Total visitation for this month was 18,739, showing a decrease of 6.4% from May 1955. This decrease is considered directly attributable to road construction both in the park and on Florida Route 27 between Florida City and the entrance to the park.

Visitors:

Associate Director Evind Scoyen
Regional Director Elbert Cox
J. E. Browning, Subtropical Experiment Station, USDA
Fred E. Harden, Florida State Board of Health, Miami
Henry Chubb, Florida State Board of Health, Orlando
Paul J. Hunt, Florida State Board of Health, Jacksonville
Gordon E. Dunn, U. S. Weather Bureau, Miami
Myron Sutton and Edward Bierly of the Washington Office

Special Activities: Mr. Gordon E. Dunn, U. S. Weather Bureau, Miami, called at the park headquarters and met with the Superintendent, the Chief Ranger, and the Assistant Chief Ranger in regard to fire weather forecasting. According to Mr. Dunn, his office is interested in and intends to initiate fire weather forecasts in the fall.

Associate Director Scoyen and Regional Director Cox were escorted through the park and surrounding environs by the Superintendent.

The Chief Ranger made an official 10-day visit to Petersburg National Military Park in connection with his proposed transfer to that area as Superintendent.

Messrs. Myron Sutton and Edward Bierly, the field museum exhibit planning team, were here to work on the Everglades museum exhibit plans.

Miscellaneous: Charlie Martin, ex-Homestead Police Chief (deer slayer case) and recent unsuccessful candidate for Constable, is now working for the Central Florida Construction Company as a crew foreman on the new park road.

Administration

Personnel: Chief Ranger Bernard T. Campbell received notification of his selection to fill the position of Superintendent, Petersburg National Military Park, to become effective in mid-July.

Seasonal Fire Control Aid Edmund J. Bucknell received notification of his selection to fill the position of Park Ranger, GS-5, Blue Ridge Parkway, to become effective June 3.

Seasonal Fire Control Aid Marvin C. Hershey was terminated May 5 and returned to Glacier National Park for summer employment.

Seasonal Ranger Wilmer H. Walker was returned to duty from furlough at Everglades and changed headquarters to Yellowstone National Park effective May 5.

Safety and Health: Two automobile accidents were investigated during the month. No personal injuries were involved.

Building Fire Protection: A 4-inch standpipe was installed in the Pine Island residential area for the use of fire trucks from nearby fire departments in the event they should be called on to help.

Cooperative Activities

Cooperation with Other Federal, State or Local Agencies: A self-recording rain gauge was installed at Pine Island by the Subtropical Experiment Station, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Mosquito traps were placed at Pine Island and Tamiami Ranger Stations by the Florida State Board of Health Mosquito Control Unit.

District Ranger Winte assisted the Florida Highway Patrol when a gasoline tank truck caught fire on U. S. 41. The fire was finally extinguished by the use of National Park Service equipment.

Eight employees of the Salt Water Fisheries Division, using a cabin cruiser, 4 skiffs, and a plane assisted Ranger Parker with the Lee County Outboard Club's visit to the park May 25 and 26.

Interpretive Facilities: With the slowing down of public contact activities some effort has been directed toward the building up of the park's photographic and natural history collections. About 250 slides have been bound. A color scheme for major categories of slides has been adopted for ease in choosing and filing slides.

The beginning of an entomological collection has been made with 26 species of Lepidoptera already collected.

The Royal Palm Ranger Station was manned by a naturalist on 26 days during the month. A 2:15 p.m. talk on the park at the station and a 3:00 p.m. guided walk along the Gumbo Limbo Trail were scheduled daily throughout the month. Sharply reduced travel and insect annoyances limited participation in these programs to a total of 1,328 visitors. On 6 days during the month no visitors were on hand to take the scheduled walk, and no visitors were present for the 2:15 talk on 3 occasions. Bus passengers made up the bulk of participants at this talk.

Research and Observation:

Research: District Ranger Bean and the biologist treated Australian pines (*Casuarina lepidophloia*) in the Concrete Bridge area with "Ammate" crystals to test the value of this herbicide in control of Australian pines. A check later in the month revealed that most of the above-ground parts of the treated trees have been killed. It remains to be seen whether root-sprouts are also controlled by this method.

A check of trees tagged for study of frost damage was completed. The pattern of damage varied a great deal in different areas and from species to species, but aerial parts of many species of young hardwoods were killed in low-lying areas of the park. In most cases the injuries amounted to frost-pruning with the plants resprouting from the base. It now appears, however, that a sizeable area of buttonwood (*Conocarpus*) in the Flamingo Prairie and Snake Bight sections may have been killed by frost. These stands showed little damage immediately after the freeze, but have gradually dropped their leaves and at present has little sign of recovery.

Naturalist Karraker and the biologist made the tern count at Dry Tortugas, May 25 - 27. On the basis of sample plots a population of about 92,000 sooty terns was calculated, of which approximately 5,000 were attempting to nest at poor sites on Long Key, subject to flooding by high tides. The count of roseate terns showed 102 nests, mostly on Long Key. No count was made of noddies on Superintendent DeWeese's recommendation (in which we concurred) that additional disturbance of the colony be avoided. A summary and evaluation of the tern counts is being prepared.

Collaborator Robert P. Allen, now studying the feeding areas of herons and ibis in the celebrated summer roost at Duck Rock, reported that there were about 3,000 birds (mostly white ibis) in the roost as of mid-May. This appeared to be the only large concentration of wading birds remaining in the park.

Observations: A probable observation of two panthers in the mangrove forest near The Lungs and an observation of a black mangrove fox squirrel near Lostman's River Ranger Station were reported.

A yearling black bear reported seen at the north end of Lake Ingraham on May 26 by one R. Albritton (fide District Ranger Senne) perhaps indicates the success of 1954's "Operation Bear'Lift," in which three bears were released on Cape Sable.

An Everglades mink (highway casualty on the Tamiami Trail) brought to headquarters provided a record of interest although the specimen was in too poor condition to be saved.

Two additions to the park bird check list were made during the month; a spotted-breasted oriole seen May 3 by Superintendent Beard in his yard at Pine Island and a group of 14 white-bellied boobies seen in the Gulf of Mexico 1½ miles off the mouth of Broad River by Collaborator Allen, also May 3.

A summary of spring bird observations in the park was submitted to Dr. Henry M. Stevenson for inclusion in Audubon Field Notes.

Operations

Protection and Ranger Service: Several night patrols were made in the Florida Bay District to check on reported illegal shrimping. Although nothing was found, the investigations are being continued.

Mr. and Mrs. Hendrickson (a Miami attorney) were towed to Islamorada Yacht Basin after having engine trouble and spending the night anchored in Fla. Bay. The Florida State Board of Health Mosquito Control Unit boat was towed off a mud bank at Black Betsy Pass.

Three cases were heard before U. S. Commissioner Jordan. A total of $85 in fines was imposed and $70 was suspended. All were minor violations.

The Entrance Station was closed for the season on May 23 and the large information sign put in place.

Patrol mileages were as follow:

Automobile	12,048
Boat	3,394
Airplane	360
Glades buggy	38
Total	15,840

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities: Black mullet fishing in Florida Bay terminated May 16 because of poor market prices.

Maintenance: A new sewage disposal field was installed at Tamiami Ranger Station and installation of the new water system, which includes a new well, new pump and water softener, for that area was completed also.

Fire Protection: One reportable fire burned only a negligible area of muck in the Tamiami District south of the Trail, but it required considerable drenching and mop-up work to completely extinguish. Three reportable fires were suppressed within the protection zone and one false alarm report was checked by aerial scouting.

Mop-up action continued on the Jeep Exhaust fire until May 12, the fire having started April 23.

Design and Construction

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: The Well Road Plan, Concrete Bridge Vicinity, No. NP-EVE-2193A, was approved on May 7.

Utility and Residential Area Location Plan, Flamingo, No. NP-EVE-2183-B, showing revised road construction data was approved May 29.

Preliminary layout plan for the Royal Palm Interpretative Station Park Area was approved May 5.

New Construction: The Marine Service Building, a concessioner construction, is 95% complete. Doors are hung; acoustic ceiling is in place; interior light fixtures are attached; and the prime coat of paint is on.

The fill has been placed and compacted and the foundation walls excavated for the Auto Service Station, a concessioner construction.

The rubbish has been removed and the Picnic Area has been graded and seeded.

Project 1A2-6A1 - Flamingo to West Lake: Oolite embankment for the roadway is virtually complete. The marl borrow for shoulder building is 30% complete. Pipe culverts have been installed from the beginning of the job to Coot Bay. Headwalls are built to Station 1875. Oolite embankment was placed on the Picnic Area road, and marl fill was placed in the campsite area and the Flamingo development area. Job, 64% complete.

Project 1A5 - Nine-Mile Bend to West Lake: The special marsh excavation is 88% complete, and the unclassified excavation for borrow (rock pit) is 50% complete. The special overhaul of borrow (oolite embankment) is 31% complete. Job, 43.6% complete.

Project 1A6 - Concrete Bridge to Nine-Mile Bend: The special marsh excavation is 40% complete and the unclassified excavation for borrow is 40% complete. The unclassified excavation for borrow, Pit No. 1, is 60% complete with Pit No. 2 excavation having been started. The special overhaul of borrow (oolite embankment) is 8% complete. Job, 25% complete.

Conferences and Meetings: Plans for the Visitor Center Building were reviewed at the Coral Gables Office of Architect Harry L. Keck, Jr.

Daniel B. Beard
Supt.

62256-52d

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

REPORT 7m5

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

* ~~BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES~~

* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

REGION One

REPORT FOR May (Month) 1956 (Year)

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. 523.1	R-35-1	2129 - G	$65,600 8/3/55	0	Balance $0.00
Anhinga Trail Account No. 523.2	R-24-1	2024 - G	$18,000 8/3/55	60%	Balance $15,708.71
Utility Road & Court, Pine Island Account No. 523.4	R-10-2	2116 - A	$ 3,040 8/3/55	30	Balance $926.56
Nature Trails, Paradise Key Account No. 523.5	R-23		$ 3,040 8/3/55	85	Balance $ 1,163.27
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. 323.9 Account No. 523.9	R-35-1	2129 - G	$75,520 8/19/54	0%	Balance $39,324.51

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	REMARKS
[illegible] National Park					
Parking Area Improvements, Flagstaff Junction Rd. 5014.1	R-5014-1	4510 - 6	[illegible] [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Roadway Shoulders Junction Rd. 5014.1	R-5014-2	5030 - 6	[illegible] [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Trailhead Site & Roads, Fish Hatchery Junction Rd. 5014.4	R-5014-3	5104 - 6	[illegible] [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Beaver Valley, Floodplain Site Junction Rd. 5014.5	R-5015		[illegible] [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Visitor Area Improvements, Flagstaff Junction Rd. 5014.2 Junction Rd. 5014.3	R-5014-4	5115 - 6	[illegible] [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

* Items not the one on hand used

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES

* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

REGION One

REPORT FOR May 1956
Month Year

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park Waterway, Park to Broad River Account No. 333.5	[illegible]-6-2	[illegible]	$ 1[illegible],[illegible] 8/17/54	0%	~~[illegible]~~ Balance Red $8.16
Landscape Development, Flamingo Account No. 333.6	[illegible]-52-1	3031	$ 19,040 8/18/54	15%	DL-Balance $3,074.89
Water System, Flamingo Account No. 332.1	U-30	3012	$ 59,500 7/[illegible]/55	0%	Balance - $49,9[illegible].85
Addition to FS Radio System Account No. 332.5			$ [illegible],965 8/18/54	70%	C-DL, Balance $1,[illegible]3.55
Test Wells, Concrete Bridge Account No. 332.10	[illegible]-19-1	2095	$ 2,760 5/6/54	98%	~~[illegible]~~ C-DL Balance $329.90
Power System, Flamingo Account No. 332.11	[illegible]-[illegible]-1		$ 6,035 8/18/54	0%	~~[illegible]~~ Balance $6,033.32

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES
* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS
CONCESSIONS PROJECTS

REGION One

REPORT FOR May 1956
Month Year

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park Marine Service Building, Flamingo		8052	$35,000	95%	C-DL

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Emergency Housing Study — Bunker Hill Building, Charlestown	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7[illegible]

FORM 10-24

REPORT FOR May (MONTH) 1956 (YEAR)

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

REGION One

Prepared by the Design and Construction Division

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	PCP NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED / PROG. APPVD	CONTRACT EXECUTED / WORK START	% COMPL.	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Park Highway from Flamingo Sta. 2190-00 to Sta. 150+00 a distance of approx. 27 miles, including a bridge at Flamingo, grading and bit. surfacing.	R-14-4	1954 $100,000 1955 929,900 1955 357,500 1956 969,700 $2,356,100			[illegible]
Project 1A2-6A1 Contract No. 14-10-0100-546 R. H. Wright & Son	R-14-4	$ 511,796	7/26/55 10/5/55	64%	Weather continues favorable
Project 1A5 Contract No. 14-10-0100-594	R-14-4	434,850	12/1/55 1/13/56	43.6%	Progress good
Project 1A6 Contract No. 14-10-0100-621	R-14-4	406,650	2/24/46	25%	Progress good
Project 1A7	R-14-4			0%	Survey Work Completed
Project 1A8	R-14-4			0%	Survey Work Completed
Project 1A4-4A1-5A1-50A1	R-7-4			0%	Survey Work Completed

Files (with attachment)

Summary of the June 1956 Monthly Narrative Report for EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

		Page
WEATHER:	Water level continues low with accumulated deficit of -10.14".	1
TRAVEL:	11.1% increase over June 1955.	1
VISITORS:	(See list.)	1
PERSONNEL:	17 personnel actions taken during month.	2
SAFETY AND HEALTH:	Four accidents but only one minor personal injury.	2
BUILDING FIRE PROTECTION:	Annual inspection made.	2
SANITATION:	Six truckloads of debris removed by contractor at Flamingo.	2
COOPERATION:	Mediterranean Fruit Fly traps set in park.	3
INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES:	Work progressed on prospectus for future museum development and preliminary plans for exhibits of Flamingo Museum completed. Total interpretive contacts for June was 34,390.	3
RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:	Search made for Haemogogus equinus. Scarcity of birdlife considered due to low water table.	3
PROTECTION:	Several night patrols made to check on reported violations. Two violations of closed road. Two search and rescue cases.	4
MAINTENANCE:	Repair of 7-Mile Tower Road and Ingraham Highway.	5
CONCESSIONERS:	Capt. Mann suspends charterboat operations until October.	5

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		Page
FIRE PROTECTION:	Three statistical fires in park.	5
INSECT AND TREE DISEASES:	Meeting with Wild Cotton Eradication Project Leader on location of campsite.	5
MISCELLANEOUS:	Pineland being cleared all the way to the park boundary.	5
PLANS, MAPS AND SURVEYS:	Service Station plan approved.	6
NEW CONSTRUCTION:	Marine Service Building substantially completed. Service Station was begun. Projects 1A2-6A1, 1A5, and 1A6 progressing.	6

In reply refer to:
823

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
P. O. BOX 275
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
June 1956

General

Weather Conditions: June was a rather normal month this year with rising temperatures, scattered thunder showers, and plenty of humidity. The sun was beginning to "hurt" instead of just warm. Insects were out in abundance. The billowing clouds of rainy season did fantastic things to sunsets. Yet, rainfall remained off--a full 3.36 inches below the average of park stations and -10.14 accumulated deficit for the November-June fire season. So, water levels remained low for this time of the year. It was tough on alligators but money in the pockets of the road contractors.

Readings from stations were as follow:

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Ppt.
Royal Palm Station	96°	89.7°	61°	67.1°	2.64"
Tamiami Station	91°	88.3°	56°	68.3°	3.22"
Coot Bay Station	95°	91.8°	60°	66.0°	6.16"
Florida Bay Station	90°	87.4°	71°	75.7	4.36"

Increase in Travel: A total of 17,332 persons visited the park in June. This is an increase of 11.1% over the same month last year and 3.4% over the previous month. This was in spite of the reconstruction of State Route 27 to the boundary making a visit to the park the most difficult yet.

Miami busses did well with their packaged tours that have become such a lucrative source of summer income. The summer season in south Florida, expected to be best yet, was living up to all expectations.

Visitors:

Roy Burke, U.S.D.A., Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Mediterranean Fruit Fly Project
J. S. Browning, U.S.D.A., Subtropical Experiment Station

D. H. Weber, Los Angeles County Museum
William Gray, Miami Seaquarium
F. D. Bittner, U.S.D.A., Wild Cotton Eradication Project
Dr. Harold Trapido, Morgas Memorial Laboratory, Panama
John D. Tarter and Dean Stout of EODC
J. L. Obenschain of B.P.R. office in Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Administration

Personnel: Personnel actions during the month were as follow:

James F. Devenport, Fire Control Aid - Resigned
John L. Scudder, Fire Control Aid - Terminated
Carl R. Hoffmann, Fire Control Aid - Terminated
Robert W. Topp, Fire Control Aid - Terminated
Howard R. Copas, Fire Control Aid - Furloughed
Ralph C. Johnston, Fire Control Aid - Furloughed
Roy S. Evenson, Fire Control Aid - Furloughed
Joseph B. Bryant, Fire Control Aid - Furloughed
Charles K. Scott, Laborer - Terminated
LeRoy F. Orme, Laborer - Terminated
Herbert H. Wysong, Laborer - Terminated - Accepted temporary appointment as Truck Driver, Position No. 38.
Charlie R. Adside, Temporary Laborer - Terminated. Accepted career conditional appointment as Laborer, Position No. 62.
William B. Robertson, Biologist (temporary appointment) - Terminated. Accepted career conditional appointment as Biologist GS-7, Position No. 9.
Chester B. Bise, Park Ranger (seasonal) GS-4 - Terminated. Reassigned and promoted to Park Ranger, GS-5, Position No. 17.
Harold J. Ness, Engineering Student Assistant from University of Florida entered on duty.
John F. Fava, Landscape Architectural Student Assistant from University of Massachusetts entered on duty.
Jean E. Olsen, Landscape Architectural Student Assistant from University of Iowa entered on duty.

Safety and Health: Four contractor dump truck accidents occurred during the month. Only one minor personal injury resulted.

Building Fire Protection: The annual inspection of building fire hazards was made. The results of the inspection were generally good with only minor deficiencies noted.

Sanitation: The District Ranger of the Coot Bay area found it necessary to issue an ultimatum to the R. H. Wright Construction Superintendent in order to get their trailer camp area cleaned of trash, garbage, litter, etc. Six large truckloads of debris were removed. Flamingo was beginning to take on the same appearance as when it was a commercial fishing village.

Cooperative Activities

Cooperation with Other Federa, State or Local Agencies: The Mosquito Control Unit of the State Board of Health operating with a float plane in the park reported finding eight alligator carcases in Little Fox Lake and later flew District Ranger Senne into the Lake so that he could make an on-the-ground investigation.

Seven baited traps were installed at various points in the Royal Palm District by representatives of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine in connection with the campaign against the Mediterranean Fruit Fly.

District Ranger Winte took representatives of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine to inspect several old Indian hammocks in the Shark Valley looking for evidence of the Mediterranean Fruit Fly but none was found.

Assistance was given the Dade County Fire Department on several incendiary fires along the east fire boundary.

Park personnel participated in the Ground Observer Corps "Operation Skytrain" VIII-B on June 4.

Interpretive Activities and Developments

Interpretive Facilities: With the slowing of public contact activities, considerable effort was exerted toward the completion of the general prospectus and interpretive outline for future museum development in the park. Preliminary plans for the exhibits of the Flamingo Museum were completed.

The Royal Palm Station was manned by a naturalist on 23 days during the month. The 2:15 p.m. talk on conservation and the park and a 3:00 p.m. guided walk were scheduled each day except Monday. Visitor attendance at these programs, although reduced in number, remained generally enthusiastic. The total participation numbered 1,144 visitors. Bus passengers provided the bulk of the persons attending the talks. Visitor use of the Gumbo Limbo and the Cypress Head Trails was seriously curtailed by the great numbers of mosquitoes in those areas.

Total interpretive contacts for the month was 34,390.

Research and Observations: Dr. Harold Trapido (Morgas Memorial Lab., Panama) visited the Coot Bay area with the biologist on June 13 to investigate the possible occurrence of Haemogogus equinus, a mosquito implicated in the transmission of sylvan yellow fever in Central America. No Haemogogus were found, perhaps because there had not yet been enough rain to fill tree cavities where this species breeds. Dr. Trapido believed that mangrove areas of the park probably provide suitable habitat for the

species. Another will be made later this summer. The salt marsh mosquito (Aedes Taenorhynchus) was encountered in some numbers on the trip.

Collaborator Robert P. Allen continued his studies of the Duck Rock roost with the cooperation of Ranger Barnie Parker. The present feeding grounds of the white ibis roosting at Duck Rock appeared to be chiefly in salt water areas along the coast between Lostman's River and Everglades City. The biologist made aerial checks of wading bird populations on June 14 with Fire Control Aid Miele and on June 29 with Fire Control Aid Scudder. These flights revealed fewer than 400 white ibis in the southern part of the park, north as far as the headwaters of Shark River. There are very few wood ibis in the lower park and much below normal numbers of egrets, the scarcity of birds apparently associated with the fact that water levels are still low at many places along the glades-mangrove edge. The usual summer concentration of roseate spoonbills (estimated at 300 birds) was present in the East Cape Canal-Lake Ingraham area, and an estimated 150 spoonbills came into the Duck Rock roost on the evening of June 16, when the biologist visited the area with an Audubon Society trip.

Sea turtles were hauling out on park beaches for egg-laying during the month. Fire Control Aid Miele counted 17 fresh crawls on the Cape Sable Beach between East Cape and Middle Cape in a flight over the area on June 20. Rangers Senne and Borgman observed 4 flamingoes, the largest number seen to date, in Lake Ingraham on June 9. Up to 60 white pelicans were summering in the Bear Lake-Mud Lake area. A little egret was reported at Seven Mile Tower on June 18 by Fire Control Aid Johnson. District Ranger Mrazek reported numerous white-crowned pigeons in the keys and eastern Florida Bay.

Operations

Protection and Ranger Service: The Royal Palm Ranger Station was broken into on two occasions and several items of equipment stolen. Entry was obtained by picking the lock on the office door which had been locked by setting the night latch instead of using the key. A plan has been developed to apprehend the culprits.

Several night patrols were made along the Cape Sable and Gulf Coast beaches to protect crawling turtles and their eggs, but no violation was detected. District Ranger Mrazek made night patrols in the vicinity of Calusa and Captain Keys in connection with reported shrimping violations. Nothing was found.

Two cases of violation of the [illegible] were heard before U. S. Commissioner Jordan and each was fined [illegible]. The [illegible] J. Russell case (speeding) was tried in Federal Court and found not guilty.

One and six-tenths miles of boundary was posted in the vicinity of the entrance station. "Closed Area" signs were removed from the headwaters areas of the Cape Sable District.

A combined air-surface search was made in Florida by the Coast Guard and park personnel to locate a lost sport fishing party. The party finally found their way to Flamingo and were returned to Homestead. A lone sport fisherman had motor trouble and was reported overdue. He was later found with a commercial fisherman.

Patrol mileage as follows:

Automobile	10,447
Boat	2,791
Airplane	1,727
Glades Buggy	44
Total	15,099

Maintenance: Repaired the Seven Mile Tower Road by placing 1,000 cubic yards of road rock in low places.

Added base rock to Ingraham Highway from Long Pine Key Road to one and one-half miles south.

Concessioners: Captain William Mann, charterboat operator under a revocable concession permit, has suspended his operations for the summer and is expected to return in October.

Fire Protection: Three statistical fires were suppressed in the park during the month, two having been started by lightning and one thought to have originated from a firebrand dropped from a Marine Corps plane. Two nonstatistical fires burned in the mangrove and on which no suppression action was taken. Two statistical fires outside the park were suppressed by park forces and equipment.

Insect and Tree Diseases: On June 21 the Assistant Superintendent met with Mr. F. D. Bittner, Acting Project Leader, and L. L. Weaver, Acting District Leader of the Wild Cotton (Pink Weevil) Eradication Project to discuss a possible site for the location of their labor camp since it must be removed from the Flamingo area.

Miscellaneous: Land clearing operations along the east boundary north and south of the entrance station have now reached the boundary and all pines outside the boundary are now being cleared, thus proving our prediction of many years ago that the park will eventually be one of the very few areas which would contain a sizeable stand of native pines of Florida.

Design and Construction

Plans, Maps and Surveys: The plan for the Service Station to be constructed by the Everglades Park Co., concessioners, at Flamingo was approved. Work was started.

Study for an entrance sign at Fort Jefferson National Monument, Garden Key, Dry Tortugas Islands, was prepared for the superintendent's review and comment.

New Construction: Marine Service Building, Flamingo. This concessioner structure is substantially finished. It awaits a coat of paint and a few little odd jobs.

Service Station, Flamingo. Foundations were poured and rough plumbing installed. Exterior walls were up. It is another concessioner's structure.

The road from Flamingo to West Lake (Project 1A2-6A1) was brought up to grade and the rough work of shaping side slopes with marl and muck was 80% finished and ready for the rains. Culvert pipes and headwalls were all in place along the main road. Some work was done on the campgrounds, picnic area, and the utility area; however they are far from completed. Culverts for drainage were being installed at the marina parking area and fill was bringing that area up into good shape.

Project 1A5, Nine Mile Bend to West Lake was grinding along fairly well. Roadway clearing was almost done and muck excavation finished. A total of 250,000 cubic yards of oolite out of 400,000 cubic yards total for the job had been placed. West Lake parking area was taking shape with oolite being placed.

Central Florida Construction Co. was short of draglines on Project 1A6, so its 21 cubic yard Euclids were not working to full capacity. However, the job was coming along with most of the canal mucked out with 50,000 cubic yards of oolite hauled to fill from Borrow Pit No. 1 (Sweetbay Pond) and 14,000 cubic yards placed from Paurotis Pond (Borrow Pit No. 2).

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES

* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

REGION One

REPORT FOR June (Month) 1956 (Year)

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Waterway, Shark to Broad River Account No. 333.5	M-6-2		$14,025 8/17/54		No Change - Balance Bed $8.16
Landscape Development, Flamingo Account No. 333.6	M-52-1	3031	$19,040 8/23/54	20	DL - Balance $3,612.57
Water System, Flamingo Account No. 332.1	U-30	3012	$59,500 7/20/55	0	Balance - $0,848.41
Addition to FM Radio System Account No. 332.5			$4,965 8/16/54	70	C-DL, Balance $1,491.31
Test Wells, Concrete Bridge Account No. 332.10	U-19-1	2095	$ 2,760 5/4/54	98	C-DL, Balance $329.90
Power System, Flamingo Account No. 332.11	U-28-1		$ 6,035 8/16/54	0	Balance $6,033.32

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES
* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

REGION One

REPORT FOR June (Month) 1956 (Year)

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. 523.1	R-35-1	2129-0	$65,600 8/3/55	0	Balance $00.00
Ashinga Trail Account No. 523.2	R-24-1	2024 - 0	$18,000 8/3/55	0	Balance $17,022.50
Utility Road & Court, Pine Island Account No. 523.4	R-10-2	2116-A	$ 3,040 8/3/55	75	Balance $497.70
Nature Trails, Paradise Key Account No. 523.5	R-23		$ 3,040 8/3/55	85	NL - Balance $1,074.03
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. 323.9 Account No. 523.9	R-35-1	2129 - 0	$75,520 8/19/54	0	Balance $976.58

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

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[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

FORM 10-24 (Oct. 1954) MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT REPORT 7m5

REGION One

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

REPORT FOR June (Month) 1956 (Year)

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	PCP NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED / PROGRAM APPROVED	CONTRACT EXECUTED / WORK STARTED	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Park Highway from Flamingo Sta. 2190-00 to Sta. 150+00 a distance of approx. 27 miles, including a bridge at Flamingo, grading and bit. surfacing.	E-14-4	'54 $100,000 '55 929,900 '56 357,500 '56 969,700 2,356,100			
Project 1A2-6A1 Contract No. 14-10-0100-546 R. H. Wright and Son.	E-14-4	$511,796	7/26/55 10/5/55	70	Extra Work Order #3 issued for site preparation in residential area. Weather continues favorable
Project 1A5 Contract No. 14-10-0100-594	E-14-4	434,850	12/1/55 1/13/56	58	Contract time consumed 61%
Project 1A6 Contract No. 14-10-0100-621	E-14-4	406,650	2/24/46 3/16/56	28	Borrow pit #2 in operation
Project 1A7	E-14-4			0	Survey work completed
Project 1A8	E-14-4			0	Survey work completed
Project 1A4-4A1-5A1-50A1	E-7-4			0	Survey work completed

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	P.O.P. NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED / PROGRAM APPROVED	CONTRACT EXECUTED / WORK STARTED	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
[illegible]					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]			
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]			[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]			[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]			[illegible]	[illegible]

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES

* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

REGION ORE

REPORT FOR June (Month) 1956 (Year)

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Marine Service Building, Flamingo		80%	$35,000	95%	C-EL
Service Station, Flamingo				10%	No cost figure available. Foundations and exterior walls erected. Rough plumbing installed.

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

Files (with forms)

Summary of the July 1956 Monthly Narrative Report for EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

		Page
WEATHER:	Continued rainfall deficiency.	1
TRAVEL:	13.6% increase of same month last year. Summer travel increase presents new problems.	1
VISITORS:	Eminent Danish ornithologist and a friend of Senator Smathers among others.	1
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Conservation meeting attended. Spear fishing now prohibited in Monroe County.	2
PERSONNEL	Engineer Mikell and Chief Ranger Hart entered on duty. Oroszi makes round trip from Alaska to work one week in park.	2
SAFETY AND HEALTH:	Safety and First Aid talk given. One motor accident. First known snake bite by rattlesnake in park.	2
BUILDING FIRE PROTECTION	Follow-up made on fire hazard inspection.	3
COOPERATION:	Florida Highway Patrol assisted. State Plant Board assisted in installing Medfly traps. Border patrol agents assisted.	3
INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES:	Museum prospectus completed. Work begun on underwater slides.	3
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:	38,276 interpretive contacts for month.	3
RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:	Study on wading bird populations. Feeding grounds of Duck Rock birds sought. Study of Medfly poisons.	3
PRIVATE LANDS:	Private agents to make survey of Paradise Prairie, Dorothy Dewhurst lands.	4

A28

		Page
RANGER SERVICE:	Late patrols made. Report on illegal shrimping received.	4
MAINTENANCE:	Ingraham Highway worked upon.	5
FIRE PROTECTION:	Two nonstatistical fires. Fire equipment maintained on "ready" status.	5
PLANS, MAPS, SURVEYS:	Progress made on plans.	6
NEW CONSTRUCTION:	Projects 1A2-6A1, 1A5, and 1A6 progressing. Concessioner buildings working toward completion.	6

In reply refer to:
A2823

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
P. O. BOX 275
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
July 1956

General

Weather Conditions: Hot humid weather generally characterized the month. Rainfall was 4.85 inches below normal. The average water table rose during the first part of the month but since then has been on a gradual decline. As usual in summers when there is a rainfall deficiency, evaporation rate was high so that actual inundation of the park was less than, let us say, if similar precipitation had occurred in winter.

	Max. Temp	Mean Max	Min. Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm Station	95	90.9	67	70.4	4.25"
Tamiami Station	93	90.3	68	70.1	3.67"
Coot Bay Station	96	92.9	64	68.2	6.98"
Florida Bay Station	93	89.3	77	79.4	0.70"

Increase in Travel: A total of 20,071 persons visited the park in July. This is an increase of 13.6% over the same month last year and 15.8% over the previous month. Summer travel in southern Florida continues at an astonishing rate. It is worth noting that State Route No. 27 to the park continued under construction and visitor travel was expected to drop.

Study has been initiated on summer use of the park because it has developed into a big problem. Early indications are that a summer program of much greater extent than previously anticipated is in order, perhaps taking radically different form from the winter use programs.

Visitors

Dr. Finn S[illegible] - eminent Danish ornithologist
Robert E. [illegible] - architect from the Washington Office
Eugene R. [illegible] - Landscape Architect, Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
John Fi[illegible] - Florida businessman and friend of Senator George Smathers
William A. Mea[illegible] - Region One Office
Don [illegible] - Landscape Architect, EODC
Ernest G. [illegible]anger - Blue Ridge Parkway
Turner - Blue Ridge Parkway

Special Activities: District Ranger Mrazek attended a conservation meeting July 25 in the Upper Keys in which 9 local conservation groups were represented as well as the Salt Water Fisheries Division of the Florida State Board of Conservation. The meeting was concerned with the new regulation prohibiting spear fishing in Monroe County. It is now illegal to use spear fishing equipment or have such equipment in possession on the waters of Monroe County.

Messrs. Meanerhan, Turner and Whanger came to this park to help install the new accounting system.

Administration

Personnel: William B. Robertson, Jr., career-conditionsl appointment as Biologist effective July 1.

Herbert H. Wysong, temporary appointment pending establishment of register effective July 1.

Charlie Ray Adside, excepted appointment, career conditional, effective July 1.

Chester B. Bise - promoted to GS-5, Park Ranger, effective July 1.

Ruben O. Hart - entered on duty as Chief Ranger, GS-11, from Assistant Chief Ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park.

Waring Midell, entered on duty by reassignment and change in headquarters from Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area as Park Engineer, GS-11.

Samuel Oroszi, Jr., entered on duty from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service field office at Juneau, Alaska, July 2, 1956, as Supply Clerk. He returned to his old job in Alaska effective July 9, 1956, thus serving Everglades National Park for one week.

Safety and Health: The first of a series of Safety and First Aid talks was conducted at the Pine Island Shop July 18. Shop Foreman Parker discussed the new driver regulations and the safe operation of motor vehicles and equipment.

One motor vehicle accident occurred during the month when a Bureau of Public Roads pickup missed the temporary bridge at Flamingo and went into the canal. Two men suffered minor injuries.

The first known snakebite in the park area occurred when a visitor was bitten by a rattlesnake in the primitive camping area at Parachute Key. Although he was hospitalized for several days, no residual ill effects were apparent.

Building Fire Protection: Each district ranger made a follow-up building fire hazard inspection in his district to ascertain that all discrepancies as noted in the Annual Report of Inspection of Building Fire Hazards had been corrected.

The annual inspection and recharging of all fire extinguishers in the park was commenced this month.

Cooperative Activities

Cooperation with Other Federal, State, and Local Agencies: Assistance was rendered to the Florida Highway Patrol by Park Ranger Bise in connection with an accident on U. S. 41 near the Tamiami Ranger Station.

Preliminary plans were made with the State Plant Board for the installation of a trap line in Tamiami District of the park in connection with the Mediterranean fruitfly project. To date, negative reports have been received concerning the presence of the fly in the park.

Ranger Borgman took two border patrol agents to the Middle Cape air strip to investigate possible illegal entry there by aliens. No evidence was found.

Interpretive Activities and Developments

Interpretive Facilities: The museum prospectus was completed early in the month, allowing the Interpretive Staff to continue more routine tasks.

Work was begun on a series of photographs of underwater creatures. A glass tank is being used for these pictures.

Interpretive Services: Participation in the interpretive program has been good. A combined daily average of over 100 visitors attended the two programs for the 21 times they were scheduled. A total of 2,574 visitors listened to a naturalist talks. 38,276 interpretive contacts were made during the month.

Research and Observations: Active investigation of wading bird populations was continued with particular emphasis upon study of the Duck Rock roost. The white ibis concentration at Duck Rock built up steadily during July approaching 50,000 birds by the end of the month. In addition to the white ibis, large numbers of American egrets, snowy egrets, little blue herons and Louisiana herons, and several hundred roseate spoonbills were using the roost. The only other large wading bird concentration was in the Cape Sable area, especially around Lake Ingraham. Rains were rather erratic, and feeding conditions for wading birds remained poor over much of the park.

The Biologist and Fire Control Aid Miele made flights over the Gulf Coast area from Shark River to Everglades on July 11 and 12 to locate more exactly the feeding grounds of the Duck Rock birds. The chief concentration was found in an extensive area of storm damaged mangrove forest (apparently dating from the September 1948 hurricane) located one-half mile to one mile inland from the Gulf Coast in the region from Lostman's River north to Lopez River. Collaborator Allen is undertaking study of the habitat and food organisms in this area. Additional aerial checks are planned.

Anticipating possible discovery of the Mediterranean fruitfly infestations in the park, an effort was made to learn more about the general biological effects of the control measures being applied. The biologist conferred the Medfly Eradication Project and with Dr. Wolfenbacher of the University of Florida Subtropical Experiment Station. From information gained in these sessions, it appears that the park has legitimate cause for concern about the possible effects of aerial applications of malathion poisoned bait upon organisms other than Medflies. In addition there is evidence that some animals may suffer contact poisoning. Likelihood of this is greatest where the bait is spread over shallow water.

Operations

Status of Private Lands: A glades buggy permit was issued to the agents of former property owners in the Paradise Prairie section of the park for the purpose of land surveying. The survey is in relation to the remanded case of Paradise Prairie, Dorothy Dewhurst Parker. The land had been previously surveyed by the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund of Florida. E. P. Brigham, attorney, authorized the present survey for the private interests.

Protection and Ranger Service: A concerted effort was made on several occasions to apprehend the culprits responsible for breaking into the Royal Palm Ranger Station, but nothing has been determined to date.

Several early and late patrols were made in the Royal Palm District in an effort to reduce excess speed by contractors equipment and their employees.

District Ranger Mrazek has kept a close watch on reported illegal shrimping in Florida Bay; however, no trespass has been found.

Patrol mileage is as follows:

Motor Vehicle	5,568
Boat	2,335
Airplane	500
Glades Buggy	6
Total	8,409

Maintenance: Ingraham Highway from Long Pine Key Road to the Concrete Bridge was scarified, rolled, and shaped.

Fire Protection: Two non-statistical fires burned in the park. A lightning strike caused a small fire between West Lake and Flamingo Road and an airplane crash was the cause of a negligible burn in the glades south of Grossman Hammock.

The fire hazard continues high for this season of the year. In many areas of the park, the surface is still dry and subject to burning. Fire equipment is being maintained in a "ready" condition.

Design and Construction

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: Drawing for relocation of well and extension of utilities at the Royal Palm Ranger Station was completed and forwarded to MCRO for comment and review July 3.

A preliminary study for the camp and picnic grounds development on Long Pine Key was completed July 6.

A preliminary study for five roads and trails was completed July 11.

Drawing for typical comfort station at Flamingo camp and picnic grounds was approved subject to consideration and comment.

Drawing for seasonal quarters at Flamingo was approved subject to consideration of comment.

Marina equipment facilities was conditionally approved July 19.

New Construction: Visitor Center Building, Concessioner Wing: Started setting batter boards July 31.

Marine Service Building: No notable progress made this month.

Auto Service Station: Approximately 60% complete. Walls and roof complete; aprons ready for pouring. Plumbing and electric utilities were installed.

Project 1A2-6A1, Flamingo to West Lake: Job is 73% complete. Approximately 90% of the oolite is in place. All pipe culverts are installed.

Project 1A5, West Lake to Nine Mile Bend: Job is 75.1% complete. Approximately 84% of oolite is in place. Pipe culverts are 20% complete.

Project 1A6, Nine Mile Bend to Concrete Bridge: Job is 37% complete. Time consumed is 51%. Special marsh excavation is 94% complete. Approximately 50% of the oolite is in place.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* ~~BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES~~

REGION ONE

* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

REPORT FOR July (Month) 1956 (Year)

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. 523.1	R-35-1	2129 - G	$65,600 8/3/55	0	Balance $00.00
Anhinga Trail Account No. 523.2	R-24-1	2024 - G	18,000 8/3/55	0	Balance $16,961.85
Utility Road & Court, Pine Island Account No. 523.4	R-10-2	2116 - A	3,040 8/3/55	90	Balance $389.38
Nature Trails, Paradise Key Account No. 523.5	R-23		3,040 8/3/55	85	DL - Balance $1,058.94
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. 323.9 Account No. 523.9	R-35-1	2129 - G	$75,520 8/19/54	0	Balance $978.58

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hydroplane Bulletin Fund					
Building Area Extension, Flushing Account No. 5213.1	A-Y-1	1.5% - 8	8/1/[illegible]	0	[illegible]
Hangar Trail Account No. 5213.2	A-C-1	100% - 8	8/1/[illegible]	0	[illegible]
Utility Area & Court, Pine Island Account No. 5213.4	A-Z-2	21% - 4	[illegible]/55	60	[illegible]
Hangar Trail, Flushing Bay Account No. 5213.5	A-Y		8/1/55	60	[illegible]
Public Use Extension, Flushing Account No. 5213.6 Account No. 5213.7	A-Z-1	21% - 1	8/1/[illegible]	0	[illegible]

FORM 10-7A
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7M5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES

* ~~NPS ROADS AND TRAILS~~

REGION ONE

REPORT FOR July 1956
Month Year

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Waterway, Shark to Broad River Account No. 333.5	M-6-2		$14,025 8/17/54	0	Balance Red $8.16
Landscape Development, Flamingo Account No. 333.6	M52-1	3031	$19,040 8/18/54	25	DL - Balance $3,341.56
Water System, Flamingo Account No. 332.1	U-30	3012	$59,500 7/20/55	0	Balance - 50,848.41
Addition to FM Radio System AccountiNo. 332.5			$44,965 8/18/54	70	C - DL, Balance $1,491.31
Test Wells, Concrete Bridge Account No. 332.10	U-19-1	2095	$ 2,760 5/6/54	98	C-DL, Balance $329.90
Power System, Flamingo Account No. 332.11	U-28-1		$ 6,035 8/18/54	0	Balance $6,033.32

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

FORM 10-24 (Oct. 1954) MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT REPORT 7m5

REGION ONE

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

REPORT FOR July 1956 (Month, Year)

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	PCP NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED / PROGRAM APPROVED	CONTRACT EXECUTED / WORK STARTED	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Park Highway from Flamingo Sta. 2190-00 to Sta. 150+00 a distance of approximately 27 miles, including a bridge at Flamingo, grading and bit. surfacing	R-14-4	'54-$100,000. '55- 929,900. '55- 357,500. '56- 969,700. $2,356,100.			No change
Project 1A2-6A1 Contract No. 14-10-0100-546 R. H. Wright & Son.	R-14-4	511,796	7/26/55 10/5/55	73	Weather favorable
Project 1A5 Contract No. 14-10-0100-594	R-14-4	434,850	12/1/55 1/13/56	75.1	Time consumed 74.4% Progress good
Project 1A6 Contract No. 14-10-0100-621	R-14-4	406,650	2/24/46 3/16/56	37	Time consumed 51%
Project 1A7	R-14-4			0	No change
Project 1A8	R-14-4			0	No change
Project 1A4-4A1-5A1-50A1	R-7-4			0	Bids to be opened 8/3/56

FORM [illegible] (Oct. 1954) MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT REPORT FOR July 1955

REGION [illegible] BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

AREA, PROJECT TYPE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	PCR NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED / PROGRAM APPROVED	CONTRACT EXECUTED / WORK STARTED	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Park Highway from Flamingo Sta. 2150-00 to Sta. 150+00 a distance of approximately 27 miles, including a bridge at Flamingo, grading and lit. surfacing	[illegible]	'54-$100,000. '55- 329,900. '56- 357,500. '56- 968,700. $2,[illegible]			No change
Project 1A3-4A1 Contract No. 14-10-2100-[illegible] A. K. Wright & Son.	[illegible]	511,795	7/[illegible]/55 1[illegible]/[illegible]/55	73	[illegible]
Project 1A5 Contract No. 14-10-2100-[illegible]	[illegible]	434,850	12/1/55 1/13/56	75.1	[illegible]
Project 1A6 Contract No. [illegible]	[illegible]	406,650	[illegible] [illegible]	37	[illegible]
Project 1A7	[illegible]			0	No change
Project 1A8	[illegible]			0	No change
Project 1A4-4A1-5A1-5CA1	[illegible]			0	Bids to be opened [illegible]

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

REPORT 7MS

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES
* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS
CONCESSIONS PROJECTS

REGION ONE

REPORT FOR July (Month) 1956 (Year)

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Marine Service Building, Flamingo		8052	$35,000		No change
Service Station, Flamingo		8053		60	No cost figures available
Visitor Center (Concessioner's portion)		8051			Batter boards installed

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

Files (with attachment)

Summary of the August 1956 Monthly Narrative Report
for
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

		Page
WEATHER:	Humid summer weather with scattered rainfall.	1
INCREASE IN TRAVEL:	2.3% increase over same month last year.	1
VISITORS:	Park welcomed Hershel Glover of Fort Frederica.	1
MISCELLANEOUS:	Ranger goes to Europe with Navy!	2
PERSONNEL	Several terminations.	2
BUILDING FIRE PROTECTION:	Annual inspection.	2
COOPERATION:	Medfly fight continued. Search for Seminole youth. Search for several escaped prisoners.	2
INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES:	Few minor changes suggested for museum plans. Gumbo Limbo Trail labels being overhauled.	3
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:	Total of 36,700 interpretive contacts made for month.	3
RESEARCH:	Crocodile nests investigated.	3
STATUS OF PRIVATE LANDS:	Company considered possible television site at Madeira Ditches.	4
PROTECTION:	8,407 patrol miles for month.	4
MAINTENANCE:	3,000-gallon water tank trailer serviced.	4
FIRE PROTECTION:	A total of 2,000 acres burned within park.	4
PLANS, ETC.:	1A4, 4A1, 5A1, and 50A1, bid won by Ralph E. Mills Co. Low bid on Project 1A3 by Powell Brothers.	5

A2823

		Page
NEW CONSTRUCTION:	Concessioners' Public Service Building, Auto Service Station, and Marine Service Building. NPS's Project 1A2-6A1, Project 1A5, Project 1A6, Water Storage Tank at Flamingo, Water System at Flamingo, Sewage Disposal System at Flamingo, and Relocation of Well and Extension of Utilities at Royal Palm.	5

In reply refer to:
A2823

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
P. O. BOX 275
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
August 1956

General

Weather Conditions: Hot, humid weather prevailed in August with temperatures well above 90 degrees. Rainfall was scattered with considerably less than normal precipitation in all areas except the Royal Palm District, being 1.26 inches below average for the month. The water guage at Taylor Slough showed the lowest water table on record for the month.

Readings from stations were as follows:

	Max. Temp	Mean Max.	Min. Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm Station	97°	92.8°	67°	69.7°	8.28"
Coot Bay Station	94°	92.0°	68°	70.7°	4.61"
Tamiami Station	98°	93.2°	67°	72.0°	7.78"
Florida Bay Station	93°	91.0°	75°	79.6°	1.5"

Increase in Travel: A total of 18,334 persons visited the park during August. This is an increase of 2.3% over the same month last year. The upward trend in yearly park visitation continues in spite of heat; humidity; mosquito annoyance; road reconstruction (between Florida City and the entrance to the park); and the closing of the park road beyond Royal Palm District (which stopped all fishing traffic on the road). Everglades National Park is fast on its way to becoming a year around park.

Visitors:

Hershel Glover, Superintendent, Fort Frederica National Monument
Nancy Powell, feature writer doing an article for Holiday Magazine
Larry Witt, freelance photographer on assignment for Holiday
F. W. Bittner, Project Leader, Plant Pest Control Branch, Wild Cotton Eradication Project

L. F. Curl, Assistant Chief, Plant Pest Control Branch, Agricultural Research Service, Washington, D. C.
Dean Stout, EODC
Ross Sweeny, EODC
F. W. Cron, Bureau of Public Roads
J. L. Obenschain, Bureau of Public Roads

Miscellaneous: Assistant Chief Ranger Lyle H. McDowell was on military leave August 14-31 for training with the Sixth United States Fleet in the Mediterranean. Mr. McDowell holds the rank of Lieutenant Commander, USNR, and during the period of this training was the Officer-in-Charge of all reservists from the Sixth Naval District and the senior reserve officer embarked in the USS Harlan R. Dickson in charge of Reserve Training and Personnel.

During the period of the training cruise, visits were made to the French Riviera at Cannes, France, and to Naples and Rome, Italy.

Administration

Personnel: L. M. Powell, WAE laborer, De Soto National Memorial, was terminated effective July 31. Notice came too late to include it in the July report.

Mr. Jack E. Lewis resigned effective August 11 to accept a position with the Homestead Air Force Base.

De Soto National Memorial was decoordinated from this office and records for Messrs. Hopper, Haywood, and Hughes were transferred to the Regional Office.

John F. Fava, Landscape Architectural Student Assistant from the University of Massachusetts, and Jean E. Olson, Landscape Architectural Student Assistant from the University of Iowa completed their tour of duty at the park. Both were EODC student technicians.

Building Fire Protection: Annual inspection and recharging of all fire extinguishers was completed during the month.

Cooperative Activities

Cooperation with Other Federal, State or Local Agencies: The fight against the Mediterranean fruitfly continued through August with rangers assisting officials of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the State Plant Board in projects in and near the park.

District Ranger Winte assisted Florida Highway Patrol officers in locating Jack Kelly, a Seminole Indian you injured in an automobile accident near the Tamiami Ranger Station.

The Collier County Sheriff and State Road Department prison guards were assisted by Ranger Winte in a search for escaped prisoners in the vicinity of 40-Mile Bend.

Interpretive Activities and Development

Interpretive Facilities: The Interpretive Department reviewed very completely the exhibit plans for the Flamingo museum. While the plans were generally quite good a few minor changes were suggested.

Initial work on rewriting of the Gumbo Limbo Trail labels was begun during the month. We hope to develop new plastic labels before the winter season begins.

Interpretive Services: A girl scout group from Michigan was given a tour to Shark River abroad the park cruiser.

A regular schedule of the 2:15 p.m. talk on the porch of the Royal Palm Station and the 3:00 p.m. guided nature walk was carried out for the whole month. A number of factors acted adversely upon the success of the program; the long overdue summer rains; the heavy mosquito infestation; and lightning caused fires that took all available personnel, thus cancelling scheduled programs. Oppressive, humid air preceding storms caused many visitors to abandon all notion of waiting for programs and instead to seek relief in the movement of the vehicle.

In spite of all deterrents, however, a total of 36,700 interpretive contacts were made and 2,468 visitors listened to talks.

Three special talks were given to civic groups: Rod and Reel Club, Miami Civitan Club, Redland Lions Club.

Research and Observation: Four crocodile nests in northeastern Florida Bay that were checked frequently during the summer by District Ranger Mrazek had not hatched at the end of the month. Chief Ranger Hart, Mrazek, and Biologist Robertson visited one of these nests (Butternut Key) on August 31, exposed the top layer of eggs, and opened one egg that had been damaged. The egg contained a well-developed crocodile embryo estimated to be about two weeks from hatching.

An account of summer bird observations in the park was submitted to Dr. Henry M. Stevenson (Florida State University) for inclusion in Audubon Field Notes.

District Ranger Winte reported observing 19 deer along the 7-Mile Tower Road.

Operations

Status of Private Lands: Private property in the Madeira Ditches area is being considered as a possible site for a television relay station by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Protection and Ranger Service: Early and late patrols were made in the Royal Palm, Florida Bay, and Tamiami Districts; however, no unusual events were encountered.

Three cases were heard before the U. S. Commissioner involving speeding and reckless driving. A total of $50 in fines was imposed.

One mile of boundary was relocated and sposted along the east boundary between Waldin and Bauer Drives. Land clearing has reached the park between these roads.

District Ranger Winte has been able to make very limited air boat patrols from the Loop Road due to low water.

Patrol mileage were as follows:

Motor vehicle	4,944
Glades buggy	36
Boat	2,911
Airplane	375
Airboat	141
Total--------	8,407

Maintenance: The 3,000-gallon water tank trailer was received but needs some adjustments before being put into service.

All required hurricane shutters were completed for the Pine Island residences.

Fire Protection: Three statistical fires and two non-statistical fires, all caused by lightning, burned during the month. A total of 2,000 acres within the park was burned. These were "out-of-season" fires which under normal conditions of rainfall and water table would not have burned.

A new 300-gallon fire pumper unit was received from the Growers Equipment Company having been built according to our specifications.

Design and Construction

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: Mr. J. L. Obenschain of the Bureau of Public Roads, Gatlinburg Office, was at the opening of bids on road sections 1A4, 4A1, 5A1, and 50A1. Ralph E. Mills Co. was the successful bidder with $327,210.

Mr. F. W. Cron of the Bureau of Public Roads made an inspection of the park road construction and opened bids for the Flamingo Bridge, Project 1A3. Powell Brothers submitted the low bid of $196,060.

Engineer Sweeny and Landscape Architect Stout of the Eastern Design Office visited the area to discuss current and proposed construction.

New Construction:

Everglades Park Co. Public Service Building. Piling has been driven and the contractor is making preparations to pour the pile caps.

Auto Service Station. Approximately 75% complete. Storage tanks and piping for dispensing pumps are installed; pumps have been delivered and major construction of the building is complete.

Marine Service Building. No appreciable work has been done on it during the past month. It remains approximately 80% complete.

National Park Service. Project 1A2-6A1, Flamingo to West Lake. Job is 78% complete.

Project 1A5, West Lake to Nine Mile Bend. The job is 85% complete. The canal is filled and work is going on the second lift. Culverts and headwalls are 30% complete.

Project 1A6, Nine Mile Bend to Concrete Bridge. The job is 52% complete. Colite embankment is 50% in place. Overhaul of borrow is 50% complete and 62% of contract time is gone.

Water Storage Tank at Flamingo. Bids were opened on August 21. Gifford Fabricators, Inc., of Memphis, Tennessee, were the successful bidders with a price of $30,810.

Water System, Flamingo. Bids were opened on August 31. Edelblut Construction Co. of Ft. Myers, Florida, were the successful bidders with a bid of $43,895.40.

Sewage Disposal System, Flamingo. Drawing No. NP-EVE-3041 was reviewed and sent to the Eastern Office with comments.

Relocation of Well and Extension of Utilities, Royal Palm Ranger Station. Plan NP-EVE-2196 was prepared and approved on August 29.

George W. Fry
Acting Superintendent

FORM 10-24 (Oct. 1954) MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT REPORT 7m5

REGION One

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

REPORT FOR August 1956
Month Year

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	PCP NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED / PROGRAM APPROVED	CONTRACT EXECUTED / WORK STARTED	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Park Highway from Flamingo Sta. 2 2100-00 to Sta. 150+00 a distance of approximately 27 miles, including a bridge at Flamingo, grading and bit. surfacing	R-11-4	'54-$100,000. '55- 929,900. '55- 337,500. '56- 262,700. $2,330,100.			No change
Project 1A2-6A1 Contract No. 14-10-0100-516 R. R. Wright & Son	R-11-4	511,796	7/24/55 10/2/55	78	Progress slow
Project 1A5 Contract No. 14-10-0100-594	R-11-4	434,850	12/1/55 1/13/56	85	Progress good
Project 1A6 Contract No. 14-10-0100-621	R-11-4	406,650	2/24/56 3/14/56	65	Progress good
Project 1A7	R-11-4			0	No change
Project 1A8	R-11-4			0	Bids opened 8/22/56 Ralph E. Mills Co. Low bidder $357,870. Approved.
Project 1A4-4A1-5A1-5CA1 Contract No. 14-10-0100-462 Account No. 521.5	R-7-4			0	Bids opened 8/3/56 Low bidder Ralph E. Mills Co. $327,210. Approved
Project 1A3 - Bridge over Flamingo Canal					Bids opened 8/31/56. Low bidder Powell Bros., Inc., Ft. Lauderdale Fla. $194,000. Not approved.

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

ROAD PROJECT TITLE AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	P.C.R. NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED	CONTRACT EXECUTED	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
[illegible]					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]			[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]			[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]			[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]			[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]					[illegible]

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES

* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

CONCESSIONS PROJECTS

REGION One

REPORT FOR August 1956
Month Year

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Marine Service Building, Flamingo		8052	$35,000		No change
Service Station, Flamingo		8053		75	Storage Tanks and Pumps Installed
Public Service Building (Concessioner's portion)		8051		5	Foundation pilings installed

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES

* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

REGION One

REPORT FOR August 1956
Month Year

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Everglades National Park					
Waterway, Shark to Broad River Account No. 333.5	U-6-2		$14,025 8/17/54	0	
Landscape Development, Flamingo Account No. 333.6	U52-1	3031	19,040 8/13/54	30	
Water System, Flamingo Account No. 332.1	U-30	3012	59,500 7/20/55	0	Bids opened August 31. Ekelhurt Const. Co., Ft. Myers, Fla. Low Bidder. $43,895.40
Addition to FI Radio System Account No. 332.5			14,965 8/12/54	70	
Test Wells, Concrete Bridge Account No. 332.10	U-19-1	2095	2,760 5/4/54	98	
Power System, Flamingo Account No. 332.11	U-27-1		6,035 8/14/54	0	

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GPO 887563

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FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* ~~BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES~~

* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

REGION One

REPORT FOR August 1956
Month Year

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. 523.1	R-35-1	2129-G	$65,600 8/3/55	0	No change
Anhinga Trail Account No. 523.2	R-24-1	2024-G	18,000 8/3/55	0	
Utility Road & Court, Pine Island Account No. 523.4	R-10-2	2116-A	3,040 8/3/55	90	
Nature Trails, Paradise Key Account No. 523.5	R-23		3,040 8/3/55	85	
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. 323.9 Account No. 523.9	R-35-1	2129-G	75,520 8/19/54	0	

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GPO 887563

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Files/attach.

Summary of the September 1956 Monthly Narrative Report for EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

		Page
WEATHER:	Hot humid weather brings out hordes of mosquitoes. Rainfall below normal.	1
TRAVEL:	44.4% increase in travel as compared to same month last year.	1
VISITORS:	Governor Collins and party.	2
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Fire training meeting of U. S. Forest Service attended by Assistant Chief Ranger.	2
PERSONNEL:	One employee converted to career appointment.	2
SAFETY AND HEALTH:	Another talk on Safety and First Aid series given. One motor vehicle accident.	2
COOPERATION:	Continued cooperation on Medfly. Assistance to State in motor accident.	2
LEGISLATION:	Spearfishing controversy continues. State Land Use and Control Committee created by Executive Order of Governor Collins asks aid.	3
INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES:	Limb rich in epiphytic life used as temporary exhibit.	3
RESEARCH AND OBSERVATIONS:	Two species of birds new to park observation recorded.	3
PROTECTION:	1½ miles of boundary relocated with markers.	4
FIRE PROTECTION:	960 acres returned to County protection zone.	4

A2823

		Page
PLANS, MAPS, & SURVEYS:	Grass seeds planted in experimental plots.	5
NEW CONSTRUCTION:	BPR and Concessioner Projects going well but stop orders issued because of rain to road construction.	5

In reply refer to:
A2823

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
P. O. BOX 275
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
September 1956

General

Weather Conditions: Hot, humid weather and showers characterized September, but average precipitation was below normal this month. The water gauge at Taylor Slough, however, stood at nearly the same level as last year. The ubiquitous mosquito brought out by the showers proved at times to be too much for visitors.

Readings from stations were as follows:

	Max. Temp	Mean Max	Min. Temp	Mean Min	Rainfall
Royal Palm Station	92	88.6	68	70.5	4.18"
Coot Bay Station	92	88.5	66	71.7	6.49"
Tamiami Station	92	89.0	69	73.3	6.60"
Florida Bay Station	93	92.0	76	78.4	4.78"

Increase in Travel: It has been difficult for the park staff to adjust its planning and programs to the concept of an all year park, but it appears that this must be done and done soon or next summer will find the Service in difficulty. Slack seasons when operations could be drastically curtailed, seasonal personnel terminated, and a "breathing period" allowed are now a thing of the past. Total visitation was 15,096 as compared with 10,445 the same month last year (a 44.4% increase). Evaluation of this must take into account two important facts: (1) State Route 27 to the park entrance was under construction and at times almost impassable and (2) the park road beyond Royal Palm Station was closed.

The necessity for a true count was recognized and special effort was made by sample studies to deduct all but bona fide visitors from the travel tabulation.

Visitors: Governor LeRoy Collins of Florida and his Administrative Assistant Robert Fokes spent the Labor Day weekend fishing in the Cape Sable District of Everglades National Park. Making up his party were Editor of the Miami Herald John Pennekamp; Everglades Park Co. officials Robert Knight, George Pegram, A. M. Tyler, and Allan Kessler; and Assistant Superintendent George W. Fry with District Ranger Clifford Senne. This was Governor Collins' first visit to the park and the fish, roseate spoonbills, and four wild flamingoes cooperated obligingly to add to his enjoyment of the area. The Governor said it was the best outing he had ever had in his life.

Father Balduino Rambo, influential Catholic priest and teacher of botany from Brazil, was here on invitation from the State Department to tour the United States. He visited the park and spent 2 days studying the plants and wildlife of the area.

Special Activities: Assistant Chief Ranger McDowell attended a 3-day fire training meeting conducted by the U. S. Forest Service at Camp McQuarrie in central Florida.

Administration

Personnel: David O. Karraker was converted to career appointment effective August 20.

Safety and Health: Another in a series of Safety and First Aid talks was conducted at the Pine Island shop with Service maintenance personnel and Bureau of Public Roads employees in attendance. The new artificial respiration method and the use of the resuscitator were demonstrated to the group.

One motor vehicle accident occurred during the month. A Bureau of Public Roads employee, while driving a Government vehicle, collided with a bulldozer within the road construction area in the park. No injuries were sustained.

Cooperative Activities

Cooperation with Other Federal and State Agencies: Continued cooperation was extended to the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Florida State Plant Board in the extermination project of the Mediterranean fruitfly.

Assistance was rendered to Florida Highway Patrol in a serious motor accident which occurred along U. S. Highway 41 at a point near the 40-Mile Bend.

State and County Legislation: Spearfishing has been a controversial subject in south Florida and Monroe County recently passed a law to prohibit spearfishing in all of that County. The Upper Keys Conservation Council sent us a letter asking support for their stand against the Amateur Athletic Union which has sanctioned spearfishing as a sport.

The Chairman of the State Land Use and Control Commission, Mercer Brown, asked us to aid them in the inventory of state-owned lands, particularly meandered lake bottoms and tidal bottoms. The State Land Use and Control Commission was created by Executive Order of Governor Collins "to recommend policies and possible legislation for the management of state lands in the public interest."

Interpretive Activities and Developments

Interpretive Facilities: Work is progressing on the new labels for the Gumbo Limbo Trail. An artist has been employed by the Everglades Natural History Association to sketch in backgrounds for labels. It is hoped that such a background on hand lettered signs will arouse greater interest in the labels.

A limb torn from a live oak by a passing dragline was found to be full of epiphytic plants. It was used as a temporary botanical exhibit at the Royal Palm Station.

Interpretive Services: Self-operating interpretive devices made most of the interpretive contacts during the month of September.

Scheduled talks were reduced to three times weekly. Guided walks were scheduled on three Sundays but mosquito hordes forced a cancellation of this program at the end of the month. Total interpretive contacts were 39,159.

Research and Observations: Observations toward the end of the month brought a number of interesting records of fall migrant birds. These included records of two species new to the park: Swainson's warbler and the cerulean warbler.

The veery and the snowy plover were second records for the park. Cattle egrets were seen at Taylor Slough and at Flamingo. Roseate spoonbills in considerable numbers were in the Coot Bay-Flamingo area. These concentrations included many adult birds probably enroute to the nesting keys in Florida Bay.

Operations

Protection and Ranger Service: Boundary markers were relocated along the east boundary for 1¼ miles in the area south of Lucile Drive. Signs stating "Glades Buggies and Airboats Prohibited" were placed on the same posts as the boundary signs.

Patrol mileage for the four districts were as follows:

Motor Vehicle	3,390
Glades Buggies	31
Boat	2,445
Airboat	307
Airplane	210
Total--------	6,383

Landowners were contacted to discuss fire problems along the boundary of the park.

Fire Protection: Nearly 960 acres of land, which was formerly within our fire zone were returned to the protection care of Dade County. This will exclude from our fire zone a large area of pine forests and dwellings which was the source of several fires in the past.

A map with azimuth circles and string reels was constructed for the Tamiami Ranger Station. This will aid considerably in locating fire and dispatching fire crews in that district.

Design and Construction

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: Engineering Student Assistant Harold J. Ness returned to the University of Florida after completing his tour of duty.

Traffic control sign needs on the park road were studied and EODC advised.

Oolite rock dredged from Florida Bay and stockpiled in the on-the-job housing area has been spread over the area.

Bermuda grass seed and sprigs and centipede grass seed were planted in experimental plots in salt laden marl in the southern end of the park. Germination required is 7 to 10 days. Sprigs greened up equally rapidly.

New Construction: Highway Project 1A2-6A1. Prime coat has been applied to 2 miles of finished grade. One and one-half miles more are ready for prime coat. Stop Order was given due to rains effective September 10. The job is 83% complete and time consumed was 92%.

Project 1A5. Oolite embankment is 95% complete. Rough grading of shoulders and slopes is 80% complete. All pipe culverts installed and headwalls is 88% complete. Stop Order was issued effective September 10. The job is 93% complete and time consumed was 89%.

Project 1A6. Oolite embankment is 80% complete. Rough grading shoulders and slopes are 15% complete. Pipe culverts is 33% complete. Stop Order was issued effective September 10. The job is 67% complete and time consumed was 66%.

Project 1A4-4A1-5A1-50A1. Oolite embankment is 18.5% complete. Pipe culverts is 12% complete. The job is 16% complete and time consumed was 15.5%.

Concessioner Projects - Marine Service Building. Installation of inside fixtures was begun.

Service Station. 80% complete.

Visitor Center (Concessioner Section). Foundation footings is 50% complete.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

FORM 10-24 (Oct. 1954) MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT REPORT 7m5

REGION ONE

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

REPORT FOR Sept. 1956
Month Year

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	PCP NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED / PROGRAM APPROVED	CONTRACT EXECUTED / WORK STARTED	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Park Highway from Flamingo Sta. 2 2190-00 to Sta. 150/00 a distance of approximately 27 miles, including a bridge at Flamingo	R-14-4	'54-$100,000 '55- 929,900 '55- 357,500 '56- 969,700			No Change
Project 1A2-6A1 Contract No. 14-10-0100-546 R. H. Wright & Son.	R-14-4	511,796	7/26/55 10/5/55	83	Stop Order Effective Sept. 10, 1956.
Project 1A5 Contract No. 14-01-0100-594	R-14-4	434,850	12/1/55	93	Stop Order Effective Sept. 10, 1956.
Project 1A6 Contract No. 14-10-0100-621	R-14-4	406,650	2/24/46 3/16/56	67	Stop Order Effective Sept. 10, 1956.
Project 1A7	R-14-4			0	No change
Project 1A8	R-14-4	557,070		0	
Project 1A4-4A1-5A1-50A1 Contract No. 14-10-0100-662	R-7-4	327,210		16	
Project 1A3 - Bridge over Flamingo	Canal			0	No change.

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

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FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES

REGION One

* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

REPORT FOR Sept. 1956
Month Year

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Waterway, Shark to Broad River Account No. 333.5	M-6-2		$14,025 8/17/54	0	No Change
Landscape Development, Flamingo Account No. 333.6	M-52-1	3031	19,040 8/18/54	30	No Change
Water System, Flamingo Account No. 332.1	U-30	3012	39,500 7/20/55	0	Water Storage Tank, Flamingo. Gifford Fabricators, Inc. Memphis, Tenn. Water Distbn. System, Flamingo
Addition to FM Radio System Account No. 332.5			44,965 8/18/54	70	Edelblut Const. Co. No change
Test Walls, Concrete Bridge Account No. 332.10	U-19-1	2093	2,960 5/6/54	98	No Change
Power System, Flamingo Account No. 332.11	U-28-1		6,035 8/18/54	0	No Change

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES
* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

REGION One

REPORT FOR Sept 195[illegible]
Month Year

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. 523.1	R-35-1	2129 - G	$65,600 8/3/55	0	No change
Ashinga Trail Account No. 523.2	R-24-1	2024 - G	18,000 8/3/55	0	No change
Utility Road & Court, Pine Island Account No. 523.4	R-10-2	2116 - A	3,040 8/3/55	90	No change
Nature Trails, Paradise Key Account No. 523.5	R-23		3,040 8/3/55	85	No change
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. 323.9 Account No. 523.9	R-35-1	2129 - G	75,520 8/19/54	0	No change

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES
* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS
CONCESSIONERS PROJECTS

REGION One

REPORT FOR Sept. 1956
Month Year

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Marine Service Building, Flamingo		8052	$35,000		
Service Station, Flamingo		8053	19,000	80	
Visitor Center (Concession's portion)		8051	160,000	7	Foundation ready to pour.

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

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Files with forms

Summary of the October 1956 Monthly Narrative Report for EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

		Page
WEATHER:	Fall weather with rainfall only a little below average for month.	1
TRAVEL:	Increase of 27.4% over October 1955.	1
VISITORS:	Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Davis and others.	1
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Many inspections this month. Protection-Interpretation meeting attended by Chief Ranger Hart and Naturalist Christensen.	2
PERSONNEL:	Park faced growing recruitment problem.	2
SAFETY AND HEALTH:	Red Cross first aid course arranged. Two minor accidents.	2
COOPERATION:	Medfly project still continuing. State Department guest conducted through park.	3
INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES:	New signs for Cypress Head.	3
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:	33,541 interpretive contacts.	3
Research and Observation:	Several unusual observations. Anhinga Roost starting $\frac{1}{4}$ mile beyond old roost site.	3
PROTECTION:	Patrols to check in illegal activities in park. Patrol mileage 8,549.	4
FIRE PROTECTION:	One statistical fire suppressed. Fire breaks bladed.	4
PLANS, MAPS, SURFEYS:	Grading plan for Gas Station.	5
NEW CONSTRUCTION	Work progressing on concessioner projects and on park roads.	5

In reply refer to:
A2823

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
P. O. BOX 275
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
October 1956

General

Weather Conditions: October brought some general rains to the park but it was still below average for the month. This makes a continuous below-average rainfall for all the months so far in 1956.

The over-all weather was pleasantly warm and conducive to enjoyable park travel, and cooler autumn days forecast the advent of winter.

	Max. Temp.	Mean Max.	Min. Temp.	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Station	91	86.6	61	67.5	4.45"
Coot Bay Station	91	86.8	60	70.8	3.73"
Tamiami Station	94	87.0	66	72.1	8.73"
Florida Bay Station	88	83.9	68	73	8.47"

Increase in Travel: A total of 15,442 persons visited the park during October. This is an increase of 27.4% over the same month last year. Except for the month of May, 1956 so far has shown a continuous and surprising monthly increase in visitation for the park. All this is happening without such attractions as fishing (with the road still closed) or even boat trips for bird lovers. This is the figure that has come from just average tourists who stopped by to "see what they can see" at the park.

Visitors: Superintendent and Mrs. Julian C. Spotts, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial National Historic Site

Alexandre Halot, photographer for the Belgium Ministry of Education, here on invitation of the State Department.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Davis, Special Assistant to the former Secretary of the Interior McKay.

Chuck LeBaron, photographer for the State News Agency of Florida

Special Activities: Tom Ruffin of the Region One Office came to make a R&T and B&U Maintenance Inspection and to assist in preparation of estimates.

George Carley, U. S. Public Health Service, and Charles Cook of the Florida Board of Health came to inspect the sanitary facilities and plans for sanitation in the park. They objected to the planned sewage disposal system at Flamingo.

John Littleton, Interpretive Planner from EODC, was in the park to study the interpretive plans for this park.

Messrs. Dean Stout and Donald Nutt, also of EODC were here in connection with the park development program.

Mr. J. L. Obenschain of the Gatlinburg Office of the Bureau of Public Roads and Mr. H. L. Turner of the Arlington Office of the same bureau were down here for the bid opening for Project 1A3, Bridge over Flamingo. Mr. Turner will assume the duties of Mr. Haygard, Supervising Engineer for BPR projects in this park.

Chief Ranger Hart and Park Naturalist Christensen attended the Interpretation-Protection Conference held in the Regional Office. Travel routes were planned to permit them to visit as many Service areas as possible en route.

Superintendent Beard and Everglades Park Co. Manager Robert Knight attended the Florida Wildlife Federation meeting at Ft. Lauderdale.

Administration

Personnel: Charlie Lee Tillman was converted to competitive status effective August 31.

Ralph E. Miele, Fire Control Aid, was converted to Career Conditional appointment effective October 15.

This month the park realized that it is now facing a serious problem in recruiting qualified seasonal employees. The rents in Homestead, the nearest town to the park, are extremely high and married men who are offered seasonal appointments find it impossible to make ends meet because of the general high cost of living in south Florida with no Government quarters with reasonable rates for their use. The park therefore looses many qualified employees and finds it more and more difficult to fill those positions.

Safety and Health: Arrangements were completed during the month for an American Red Cross first aid course to be given for the benefit of all park protection, interpretation and maintenance personnel. The course will commence December 13.

Two minor automobile accidents occurred with no injuries sustained.

Building Fire Protection: All building fire equipment at Coot Bay was inspected and serviced as required. Outside fire extinguishers and hose boxes were painted.

Cooperative Activities

Cooperation with Other Federal and State Agencies: The District Rangers have continued their assistance to USDA and Florida Medfly Control men. Medfly traps in the park have not yielded any flies and are to be removed in November.

Mr. Alexandre Halot, photographer from the Belgian Ministry of Education, and sponsored by the State Department, was escorted throughout the park by rangers while on patrol. The films taken by Mr. Halot are to be used in Belgium for educational purposes.

Interpretive Activities and Developments

Interpretive Facilities: Some work on interpretive facilities and devices was done this month.

New signs with hand lettering on painted masonite have been made for the Cypress Head at Station 3. They will be installed at the first opportunity. Work is continuing on the new labels for the Gumbo Limbo Trail. Plans have been formulated for the development of the wilderness section of the Gumbo Limbo Trail. A reptile exhibit to be contained in an easel-type exhibit box is being developed for the Anhinga Trail.

Interpretive Services: The wildlife show in the available area of the park was almost nonexistent and most visitors received an inadequate park experience. The Royal Palm Station was manned afternoons on Tuesdays and Thursdays and all day on Sunday. The 2:15 p.m. talk was given on those days. The guided walk along the Gumbo Limbo Trail was discontinued because of heavy mosquito infestation.

Most of the 33,541 interpretive contacts made during the month were made by self-operating facilities. Only 839 persons actually listened to talks.

Research and Observation: A number of unusual observations were recorded during the month. Two observation records of small dark panther by Engineer Mikell, several records of melanistic swamp rabbit, and an observation of a pair of flamingoes at Madeira Bay and at Calusa Key. These may be the same birds that have deserted Lake Ingraham.

Birds are beginning to roost at Taylor Slough but are roosting about one-quarter mile north of the roost of former years. If the present position is maintained, the evening spectacle of the Anhinga Trail roost will be lost until the trail is extended.

Operations

Protection and Ranger Service: Six intermittent night and early morning boat patrols were made in the Florida Bay District to prevent or detect illegal shrimping or crawfishing in the park.

Although the water table for October was below the normal mean, more water was reported in the Tamiami District in October than in the same month last year. This encouraged airboat travel in the areas in the vicinity of the park boundaries south of the 40-Mile Bend. The occurrence of water in the hunting area will, however, prevent aircraft from landing and thus will discourage potential deer poaching and illegal hunting practices. Frequent airboat patrols were made by District Ranger Winte.

Patrol mileage for October was as follows:

Motor Vehicle	4,747	miles
Glades Buggy	49	"
Boat	2,781	"
Airplane	480	"
Air Boat	492	"
Total ----	8,549	miles

Forest Fire Protection: One 32-acre statistical fire was suppressed during the month. This fire occurred in the "Hole-in-the-Donut" area of the park resulting from trash burning in the farm area.

The firebreaks around Pine Island and Long Pine Key Gravel Pit were bladed by grader for winter operations. The firebreak between the Entrance Station and Lucille Drive was also graded except for certain portions found to be too wet to work satisfactorily. This latter portion will be redone whenever conditions are favorable.

Three glades buggies and two fire pumpers were steam cleaned and repainted in preparation for the winter fire season. The remaining pieces of fire equipment will be placed in ready operation next month.

Design and Construction

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: A grading plan was prepared for the Concessioner's Gas Station at Flamingo.

Marl topsoil was placed on the oolite fill in the On-the-Job Housing area at Flamingo.

New Construction: Water Distribution System, Flamingo: Work started October 29.

Steel Water Storage Tank, Flamingo: Starting of construction of this item has been delayed due to the reorganization of the Gifford Fabricators, Inc., the low bidder for the job.

Concessioner Wing, Public Service Building, Flamingo: Approximately 15% complete.

Marine Service Building, Flamingo: Approximately 95% complete.

Service Station, Flamingo: Approximately 90% complete.

Power House, Flamingo: 10% complete.

Park Road Projects: 1A2-6A1, Flamingo to West Lake, 83% complete.

1A5, West Lake to Nine Mile Bend, 93% complete.

1A6, Nine Mile Bend to Concrete Bridge, 77% complete.

1A4-4A1-5A1-50A1, East Park Boundary to Station 150/00, Parachute Key and Paradise Key Roads, 35% complete.

1A8, Concrete Bridge to Joree Hammock and Mahogany Hammock Roads, work just started and no percentage completed.

1A3, Flamingo Bridge. Bids opened October 21. Powell Brothers were low bidders with a price of $144,332.50.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES
* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

REGION One

REPORT FOR Oct. (Month) 1956 (Year)

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Marine Service Building		8052	$33,000	95%	
Service Station, Flamingo		8053	12,000	90%	
Visitor Center (Concessioner's portion)		8051	160,000	15%	
Power House, Flamingo				5%	Foundations started

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES
* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

REGION One

REPORT FOR Oct. 1956
Month Year

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Waterway, Shark to Broad River Account No. 333.5	[illegible]		[illegible] [illegible]		
Landscape Development, Flamingo Account No. 333.6	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] [illegible]		
Water System, Flamingo Account No. 332.1	U-30	3812	59,500 7/20/55		Work started October 25, 1956
Addition to FM Radio System Account No. 332.5			[illegible] [illegible]		
Test Wells, Concrete Bridge Account No. 332.10	[illegible]	2005	2,960 5/6/54		
Power System, Flamingo Account No. 332.11	[illegible]		[illegible] [illegible]		

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

FORM 10-24 (Oct. 1954) MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT REPORT 7m5

REGION One

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

REPORT FOR Oct. (Month) 1956 (Year)

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	PCP NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED / PROGRAM APPROVED	CONTRACT EXECUTED / WORK STARTED	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Park Highway from Flamingo Sta. 2 2190-00 to Sta. 150+00 a distance of approximately 27 miles, including a bridge at Flamingo	R-14-4	'54-$100,000. '55- 927,500. '55- 357,500. '56- 969,700.		90%	
Project 1A2-6A1 Contract No. 14-10-0100-546 R. H. Wright and Son	R-14-4	511,796.	7/26/55 10/5/55		
Project 1A5 Contract No. 14010-0100-594	R-14-4	434,850	12/1/55		
Project 1A6 Contract No. 14-10-0100-621	R-14-4	406,650	2/24/46 3/16/56		
Project 1A7	R-14-4				
Project 1A8	R-14-4	557,070			Bids opened 8-23-56 Low Bidder Ralph E. Mills Co. $557,070. Approved
Project 1A4-4A1-5A1-50A1 Contract No. 14-10-0100-662	R-7-4	327,210		35%	
Project 1A3 - Bridge over Flamingo Canal					Bids opened 10-25-56. Low Bidder Powell Bros. $144,332.50

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ROAD PROJECTS

AREA PROJECT TITLE AND YEAR PROGRAMMED	REF. NO.	AMOUNT PROGRAMMED PROJECT ESTIMATE	CONTRACT AVERAGE MONTH ESTIMATE	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
[illegible]					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]			
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]			[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]			[illegible]

FORM 10-771
(January 1955)

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT 7m5

* BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES
* NPS ROADS AND TRAILS

REGION One

REPORT FOR Oct. 1956
Month Year

AREA, PROJECT TITLE, LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PCP NO.	WORKING DRAWING STATUS	AMOUNT ALLOTTED / DATE OF FIRST ALLOTMENT	% COMPLETE	REMARKS
Everglades National Park					
Parking Area Extension, Flamingo Account No. 523.1	R-3[illegible]-1	212[illegible] - G	[illegible]65,600 8/3/55		
Anhinga Trail Account No. 523.2	R-24-1	2024 - G	1[illegible],[illegible]00 8/3/55		
Utility Road & Court, Pine Island Account No. 523.4	R-1[illegible]-2	2116 - A	3,040 8/3/55		
Nature Trails, Paradise Key Account No. 523.5	R-23		3,040 8/3/55		

* Cross out the one not being used

GPO 887563

Files w/ attachment

A 2823

Summary of the November 1956 Monthly Narrative Report for EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

		Page
WEATHER:	Unseasonably cold weather and rainfall very low.	1
TRAVEL:	7.8% increase over last year this month.	1
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Everglades Natural History Association taken on "Show Me" trip.	2
PERSONNEL:	Seasonal men recruited.	2
VISITORS:	Many prominent visitors.	2
INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES:	A little progress made toward readying interpretive plan for season.	3
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:	Total interpretive contacts for month was 34,629.	
RESEARCH AND OBSERVATIONS:	Review of fire control policy. Roseate spoonbills returning to nest.	3
PUBLIC RELATIONS:	Programs given before civic minded groups.	3
PROTECTION:	Frequent patrols made to check on deer hunting.	4
FIRE PROTECTION:	5-day Fire Control Training Conference held.	4
PLANS, MAPS, AND SURVEYS:	Messrs. Cabot and Nutt of EODC here to consult on Flamingo Development contract. Mr. Cron of BPR here about construction of new park road.	5
NEW CONSTRUCTION:	Work progressing satisfactorily.	5

In reply refer to:
A2823

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
P. O. BOX 275
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
November 1956

General

Weather Conditions: The winter season set in this month with dry, windy and unseasonably cold weather. All park weather stations recorded less than one inch of precipitation, an ominous sign of early lowered water tables and a probable severe fire season ahead.

	Max. Temp	Mean Max.	Min. Temp	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Station	89	81.3	31	54.5	0.42"
Coot Bay Station	89	81.2	41	58.6	0.13"
Tamiami Station	90	80.2	42	60	0.20"
Florida Bay Station	85	78.7	50	65.4	0.60"

Increase in Travel: A total of 15,934 persons visited the park during November. This is an increase of 7.8% over the same month last year.

A press release of Eastern Air Lines pointedly tells how a realistic business group like Eastern is preparing to meet the incredible rate of increase in visitation. It is increasing its seating capacity by more than 60% of its present capacity starting December 1. Their press release goes on to say:

> "To handle the anticipated record flow of visitors this winter, EAL airliners will land at, or take off from, Miami International Airport on the average of one every nine minutes around the clock, day and night. These scheduled flights alone will have the capacity to fly more than 11,000 Miami passengers a day, half of them in low cost aircoaches.
>
> "Approximately 50 per cent of Eastern's seats will be from the north to Miami while half will be from here to the north, for a combined total of 2,000,000 during the coming winter season.

* * * * * * * * * * *

"Eastern's current fleet expansion program will double the airline's carrying capacity by 1960."

This is the expansion program for Miami of just one airline. That means that other transportation systems will probably follow suit in comparable increases.

We believe that this also means an expanded summer travel program since it is not conceivable that the airline would inactivate its new expensive fleet completely. Our problem will be "How to keep ahead of the increased visitation?", much sooner perhaps than we expected, and it will be a problem.

Visitors: Mr. and Mrs. George C. Blake, Superintendent of Moores Creek National Military Park

Dr. and Mrs. Frank C. Craighead from Pennsylvania

Mr. G. B. Rawlings, Forest Research Scientist, New Zealand

Mr. William Barnet, U. S. Representative-at-Large from Alaska

Mr. and Mrs. H. Reese Smith, Region One Offiee

Mr. Fred H. Arnold, Regional Forester, Region One

Special Activities: The Everglades Natural History Association was shown the Flamingo MISSION 66 project on their annual meeting. The Ranger personnel accompanied the group to explain the various activities.

Administration

Personnel: Nine seasonal Fire Control Aids entered on duty for the new fire season: Howard R. Copas, Roy S. Evenson, Marvin C. Hershey, R lph C. Johnston, Charles J. Scott, Frank Cone, Charles M. Kinzer, Stewart Orgill, and Raymond Spruill. The first five men had served in similar positions here last year, whereas the latter four men are experiencing their first employment in Everglades. All except one have had previous experience in other Service areas.

Mrs. Helen Jane Rea resigned her position as Clerk-Stenographer to take care of a newly adopted baby girl.

Mrs. Mary H. McCarthy replaced Mrs. Rea.

Mr. Linwood E. Jackson was promoted to Storekeeping Clerk.

Career conditional status were given to Linwood Jackson and Maynard L. Hopfenspirger, and Claude E. Adside was converted to career status.

Interpretive Activities and Developments

Interpretive Facilities: A little progress was made toward readying the interpretive plan for the winter season.

Interpretive labels were placed at Station 3, Cypress Head. The exhibit for bird identification, completely refinished, has been reinstalled at the Anhinga Trail. Work on the new Gumbo Limbo Trail labels and additional easle exhibits for the Anhinga Trail proceeds slowly.

Classes in natural history training for the Ranger Aid Girl Scout Troop were continued on alternate Monday evenings during the month. Subjects this month were Reptiles and amphibians and Prehistoric Men in South Florida. Both subjects were presented by the Park Biologist, Dr. Robertson.

Interpretive Services: The total interpretive contacts for the month were 34,629.

Research and Observations: The problem of fire control policy for Long Pine Key pinelands was reviewed with Regional Forester Arnold and a memorandum was prepared pointing out the threat of hardwood succession and requesting authorization for change of the policy of complete fire exclusion.

A mimeographed summary of the six annual Christmas Bird Counts taken in the Coot Bay-Flamingo area since 1950 was prepared for distribution to possible participants in this year's count. Efforts are being made to improve coverage of the area so that the counts will yield a better record of winter bird populations in this part of the park.

Roseate spoonbills had returned to their nesting keys in eastern Florida Bay by mid-November, but an aerial survey on November 29 revealed no herons or ibises in the vicinity of the East River and Cuthbert Lake rookery sites. The majority of the wading birds in the headwaters region were using feeding grounds north of the headwaters of Broad River. The show of alligators, wading birds and marsh birds at Anhinga Trail improved steadily during the month.

Public Relations: Several programs were given on Everglades National Park at the request of influential civic-minded groups to explain the purposes and ideals of the National Park System and the Everglades National Park.

Miami Beach Angler's Club
Leisure City Parent Teachers Association
New Comers Club
Historical Society of Souther Florida

Operations

Protection and Ranger Service: One case was tried before U. S. Commissioner involving a contractor's truck driver. He was charged with driving without a valid operator's license and fined $10.

The deer hunting season opened on November 20. Frequent patrols were made along the boundaries in the Royal Palm and Tamiami Districts. Intermittent plane flights were made over remote areas near heavy hunter concentrations mainly in the Tamiami District. A check of vehicles during early morning hours was made in the Royal Palm District during the first few days of the season. Glades buggy and gun permits were issued to those wishing to hunt in the "Hole-In-The-Doughnut" area.

Five night and early morning boat patrols were made in the Florida Bay District to investigate alleged commercial shrimping. Contact was made on two occasions with a suspected violator shrimping near, but outside, the park boundary.

Patrol mileage is as follows:

Motor vehicle	8,802
Boat	2,177
Airplane	835
Airboat	454
Total-----	12,266

Fire Protection: A 5-day Fire Control Training Conference consisting of lectures, equipment demonstrations, On-the-Job Training, and a "Show Me" trip was held from the 5th through the 9th. All permanent Protection and Maintenance personnel attended during the lecture periods and fire extinguisher demonstrations on the 8th. All Fire Control Aids attended the entire 5-day training. Regional Forester Fred Arnold assisted in this training conference and discussed fire problems with members of our organization. We were most fortunate in having the professional assistance of Mr. Arnold during our training conference.

Letters were sent to all land owners immediately adjacent to the park enlisting their aid in the prevention of fires.

Design and Construction

Plans, Maps, and Surveys: Mr. John B. Cabot, Chief Architect, and Mr. D. B. Nutt, Structural Engineer, Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction, were in the park in connection with the contract for the Flamingo Area Development.

Mr. F. W. Cron, District Engineer, Bureau of Public Roads, was also in the park in connection with the construction of the new park road.

Plans for Project 1A4, bridge over Taylor Slough, were received and approved by the Superintendent.

Plan 8003-B, Electrical Distribution System at Flamingo, was also approved by the Superintendent.

New Construction:

Water Distribution System, Flamingo: Work 50% complete.

Steel Water Storage Tank, Flamingo: Gifford Fabricators, contractor for this job has gone into bankruptcy and a new contract is in the process of being awarded to Hammond Iron Works, Warren, Pennsylvania.

Concessioner Wing, Public Service Building, Flamingo: Approximately 20% complete.

Marine Service Building, Flamingo: Approximately 98% complete.

Service Station, Flamingo: Approximately 95% complete

Power House, Flamingo: Approximately 15% complete.

Park Road Projects

1A2-6A1, Flamingo to West Lake - 83% complete

1A5, West Lake to Nine Mile Bend - 93% complete

1A6, Nine Mile Bend to Concrete Bridge - 85% complete

1A4-4A1-5A1-50A1, East Park Boundary Station 150 + 00, Parachute Key and Paradise Key Roads - 44% complete

1A8, Concrete Bridge to Joree Hammock and Mahogany Hammock Roads - 3% complete

1A3, Flamingo Bridge - Work not started.

Superintendent

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

Area EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

CHECK BELOW THE PROJECT USED

[X] BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES [ ] NPS ROADS AND TRAILS [ ] BPR ROADS AND TRAILS

REPORT FOR (*Month and year*) November 1956

F. Y. PROGRAM 1	ACCOUNT NUMBER LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND PROJECT TITLE 2	PCP NO. 3	DRAWING NO 4	CONSTRUCTION: AMOUNT ALLOTTED AND DATES 5	CONTRACT (C) OR DL 6	ESTIMATED DATE STARTING / COMPLETION 7	% COMPLETE 8	REMARKS AND CONSTRUCTION AGENCY: (D & C), (R), OR (A) 9
1955	No. 333.5 Waterway, Shark to Broad River	M-6-2		$14,025 8/17/54	C		0	Not started
1955	No. 333.6 Landscape Development, Flamingo	M-52-1	3031	19,040 8/18/54	DL	6-1-55 6-30-60	30	A
1956	No. 332.1 Water System, Flamingo	U-30	3012	59,500 7/20/55	C	11-6-56 2-15-57	50	D & C
1955	No. 332.5 Addition to FM Radio System			44,965 8/18/54	C & DL	1-9-1-54 6-30-58	70	A
1954	No. 332.10 Test Wells, Concrete Bridge	U-19-1	2095	2,960 5/6/54	C	7-21-54 6-30-57	98	A
1955	No. 332.11 Power System, Flamingo	U-28-1		6,035 8/18/54			0	Not started
1956	No. 331.7 Flamingo Area Development: Visitors Center, On-the-Job Qtrs and 2 comfrt. Stations	B-57-2 B-61-2 B-68	3037	251,818 No allotment as yet	C		0	Bids opened 10-9-56. Empire Gas Engineering Co. low bidder. Contract awarded. Work not started.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1956—O-376476

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

Area EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

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☐ BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES ☒ NPS ROADS AND TRAILS ☐ BPR ROADS AND TRAILS

REPORT FOR (*Month and year*) November 1956

F. Y. PROGRAM 1	ACCOUNT NUMBER LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND PROJECT TITLE 2	PCP NO. 3	DRAWING NO 4	CONSTRUCTION: AMOUNT ALLOTTED AND DATES 5	CONTRACT (C) OR DL 6	ESTIMATED DATE STARTING / COMPLETION 7	% COMPLETE 8	REMARKS AND CONSTRUCTION AGENCY: (D & C), (R), OR (A) 9
1956	No. 523.1 Parking Area Extension, Flamingo	R-35-1	2129-G	$65,600 8/3/55			0	Not started
1956	No. 523.2 Anhinga Trail	R-24-1	2024-G	18,000 8/3/55			0	Not started
1956	No. 523.4 Utility Road and Court, Pine Island	R-10-2	2116-A	3,040 8/3/55	C & DL	9-1-55 6-30-57	95	A
1956	No. 523.5 Nature Trails, Paradise Key	R-23		3,040 8/3/55	DL	9-1-55 6-30-57	85	A

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

Area EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

CHECK BELOW THE PROJECT USED

☐ BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES ☐ NPS ROADS AND TRAILS ☒ BPR ROADS AND TRAILS

REPORT FOR (*Month and year*) November 1956

F. Y. PROGRAM 1	ACCOUNT NUMBER LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND PROJECT TITLE 2	PCP NO. 3	DRAWING NO 4	CONSTRUCTION: AMOUNT ALLOTTED AND DATES 5	CONTRACT (C) OR DL 6	ESTIMATED DATE STARTING / COMPLETION 7	% COMPLETE 8	REMARKS AND CONSTRUCTION AGENCY: (D & C), (R), OR (A) 9
1956	No. 521.2 1A2-6A1 - Park Road - West Lake to Flamingo Development - Roads	R-14-4		$511,796	C	10-7-55 2-15-57	83	D & C
1957	No. 521.7 1A3 - Bridge over Flamingo Canal	R-14-4		145,082.50 11-5-56	C		0	Bids opened 10-25-56. Contract not awarded D & C
1957	No. 521.5 1A4, 4A1, 5A1, 50A1 - Park Road, East Park Boundary to Sta. 150 /00. Paradise Key, Royal Palm bypass Road, Road to Ingraham Highway and Pine Island Service Road	R-7-4		328,460 8-13-56	C	8-30-56 3-1-57	44	D & C (General Note: BPR does not hav (drawing numbers. Drawings are (referred to by Project number.
1956	No. 521.3 1A5 - Park Road - Sta. 1590 /00 to West Lake	R-14-4		451,110 11-7-55	C	1-13-56 3-1-57	93	D & C
1956	No 521.4 1A6 - Park Road - Concrete Bridge to Sta. 1590/00	R-14-4		459,900 2-15-56	C	3-16-56 4-1-57	85	D & C
1958	1A7 - Park Road - Sta. 150/00 to Joree Hammock Road, Joree Hammock and Road to Joree Hammock	R-14-4			C			Bids not opened
1957	No. 521.6 1A8 - Park Road - Joree Hammock Rd. to Concrete Bridge, Mahogany Hammock Rd. & Rd. to Mahogany Hammock.	R-14-4		558,463	C	11-17-56 7-1-57	3	D & C

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1956—O-376476

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

Area EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

CHECK BELOW THE PROJECT USED

☐ [redacted] ☐ [redacted] ☐ [redacted] Buildings and Utilities Concessioner

REPORT FOR (*Month and year*) November 1956

F. Y. PROGRAM 1	ACCOUNT NUMBER LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND PROJECT TITLE 2	PCP NO. 3	DRAWING NO 4	CONSTRUCTION: AMOUNT ALLOTTED AND DATES 5	CONTRACT (C) OR DL 6	ESTIMATED DATE STARTING / COMPLETION 7	% COMPLETE 8	REMARKS AND CONSTRUCTION AGENCY: (D & C), (R), OR (A) 9
	Construction by Everglades Park Co. (Concessioner)							
	Marine Service Building, Flamingo		8052	$35,000	C	1-15-56 12-31-56	96	
	Service Station, Flamingo		8053	19,000	C	1-15-56 12-31-56	95	
	Visitors Center (Concessioner's portion), Flamingo		8051	160,000	C	8-6-56 4-1-56	20	
	Power House, Flamingo		8055-A	70,000	C	1-15-56 3-31-56	15	

A2323

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
P. O. BOX 275
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

December 1, 1[illegible]

Memorandum

To: Chief, Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction

From: Superintendent, Everglades National Park

Subject: Monthly Progress Report 7-5

As requested in your memorandum of November 2[illegible], we are attaching copies of the Monthly Progress Report on which the percentages have been entered.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel S. Beard
Superintendent

Attachment

Copy to: Pine Island

DALeneaux:dal

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Files w/attachments

A 2423

Summary of the December 1956 Monthly Narrative Report for EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

		Page
WEATHER:	Mild dry weather. Drought continues with steady drop in water level.	1
TRAVEL:	27.5% increase over December last year.	
VISITORS:	December proves popular month for visitors.	2
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	House Subcommittee on Public Works and Resources inspected park.	2
PERSONNEL:	Promotion of Lyle H. McDowell.	2
SAFETY AND HEALTH:	Equipment Operator seriously injured.	3
COOPERATION:	USDA Wild Cotton Eradication crew at work in park. U.S. Coast Guard marking waterway from Flamingo to East Cape Sable.	3
PROTECTION:	Air and boat patrols instituted to investigate alleged alligator poaching. Two hunters apprehended. Stone crabber arrested and found guilty of illegal stone crabbing. Total patrol mileage for December 14,607.	3
FIRE PROTECTION:	863.5 acres burned.	3
INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES:	Work continues on Gumbo Limbo labels. Plans formulated for self-guiding boat trail.	4
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:	Naturalist program increased for meet seasonal needs. Total interpretive contacts for month, 62,107.	4
RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:	Water samples show dry season shift to more saline conditions. 7th annual Coot Bay Christmas Bird Count most successful so far.	4
PLANS, MAPS AND SURVEYS:	Park road construction inspected by Mr. Obenschain of BPR and Mr. Stout of EODC.	5
NEW CONSTRUCTION:	Construction progressing satisfactorily.	5

In reply refer to:
A2823

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
December 1957

THE ROAD TO FLAMINGO WILL BE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC MARCH FIRST

General

Weather Conditions: The weather was mild with the exception of a cold snap toward the end of the month with temperatures in the high 30's recorded at two stations. Dry weather prevailed, continuing the steady drop in water levels which have been below normal for the time of year. The weather, however, was conducive to enjoyable park travel and there was a marked increase in visitation.

	Max Temp	Mean Max.	Min Temp	Mean Min.	Rainfall
Royal Palm Station	85	79.9	37	52.7	0.44"
Coot Bay Station	84	79.5	38	56.2	0.30"
Tamiami Station	89	81.0	40	58.0	0.17"
Florida Bay Station	82	79.2	49	66.1	0.98"

Increase in Travel: A total of 266,960 visitors entered the park during the calendar year 1956. This is an increase of 8% over 1955. This increase continues despite the limited area available for visitor use during the present period of road construction. It is presumed an increase in visitation will occur when the road to Flamingo is open to public travel as anticipated in March.

Visitation for this month was 25,031. This is an increase of 27.5% over the same month last year and 65.2% over the preceding month.

Visitors:

Dr. P. E. P. Deraniyagala, Director of the Ceylon Museum, Columbo, Ceylon
Mr. and Mrs. Walter L. Huber - Member of the Advisory Board
Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Wagner-- Member of the Advisory Board
Dr. and Mrs. Turpin C. Bannister--Member of the Advisory Board
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Masland, Jr.--Member of the Advisory Board
Dr. J. O. Brew - Member of the Advisory Board
Dr. and Mrs. Henry Field of Coconut Grove, Florida
Dr. E. Raymond Hall-- Member of the Advisory Board
Mr. Fred Smith--Chairman of the Advisory Board
Mr. Alfred H. Knopf - former member of the Advisory Board
Mr. Charles G. Woodbury--Collaborator
Mr. Thomas F. Flynn, Jr., Staff Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Land Management
Mr. Ben Thompson-- Chief of Recreation Resource Planning, NPS, Washington
Mr. Ronald Lee-- Chief of Interpretation, NPS, Washington
Congressman Charles A. Halleck of Indiana
Federal Judge Choate of Miami
Dr. Hugo Rodeck, Director of Museum, University of Colorado
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Truslow, National Audubon Society photographer
Congressman John W. Heselton of Massachusetts
Subcommittee on Public Works and Resources, Committee on Government Operations: Congressmen Chudoff (Chairman), Minshall, Knox, and Fascell, Committee Investigator Perlman, and Committee Attorney Lanigan

Special Activities: Protection personnel attended the Administrative Training Conference on December 20.

The National Parks Advisory Board spent a day in the park, enroute to a conference at the new Virgin Islands National Park. In addition to other features of the park, their visit included a boat trip and inspection of the Flamingo Development Project.

The House Committee on Government Operations, Subcommittee on Public Works and Resources also inspected the Flamingo Project. They were especially interested with the progress of MISSION 66.

Administration

Personnel: Assistant Chief Ranger Lyle H. McDowell was promoted and transferred to the Region Five Office as Recreation Planner.

District Ranger Mrazek was moved to the Chief Ranger's Office for in-service training preparatory to transfer to the Virgin Islands National Park next month.

Wilmer H. Walker and Joseph A. McConnell, Jr., entered on duty and were assigned as seasonal rangers in the Royal Palm District.

Safety and Health: An equipment operator for one of the road contractors was seriously injured when he was thrown from a Euclid and run over by its rear wheel in trying to avoid an accident. He sustained a broken collar bone and numerous abrasions and contusions requiring six weeks convalescence.

Cooperative Activities

Cooperation with other Federal or State Agencies: United States Department of Agriculture Wild Cotton Eradication crews began clearing a campsite at the old Roberts place west of the Flamingo development project. They expect to start operations early next month.

U. S. Coast Guard crews began work on marking the waterway from Flamingo to East Cape Sable. By the end of the month, 8 day beacons and two lights had been erected.

Operations

Protection and Ranger Service: The entrance station was placed in operation on the 6th and manned daily thereafter.

A combined air and boat patrol was made in the Lostman's-Broad River area to investigate suspected alligator poaching. Nothing of an illegal nature was discovered. Hunting pressure along the park boundaries required frequent patrols by plane and vehicle in the Royal Palm and Tamiami Districts.

A small light plane, which had apparently been flying too low, crashed in the northeast section of the park near the park boundary. There were no injuries, and only minor damage to the plane. The plane was removed after several unsuccessful attempts.

Two men on foot, carrying loaded rifles, were apprehended emerging from the park near the Tamiami Ranger Station. They were found guilty by the Commissioner and each fined $300. Both fines were suspended.

A stone crabber was apprehended with illegal stone crab traps in the Florida Bay District. He was found guilty and fined $100, $75 of which was suspected.

Total patrol mileage for the month was 14,607: 10,137 by motor vehicle, 77 by glades buggy, 2,189 boat, 2,145 airplane, and 59 airboat.

Fire Protection: Two statistical and two nonstatistical fires occurred during the month. A total of 863.5 acres burned, 0.5 acres of which was in the park. The largest was the Palm Drive Fire which burned 860 acres and cost in excess of $1,400.

Interpretive Activities and Developments

Interpretive Facilities: With the beginning of the busy visitor season less emphasis was placed on construction of new facilities and self-guiding devices. However, work on the new labels for Gumbo Limbo Trail continues. Plans have also been formulated for the development of a self-guiding boat trail along Turner River and Halfway Creek. A numbered stake-leaflet system will be installed shortly. Materials have been purchased for a new park map to replace the much battered map at Royal Palm Station.

Interpretive Services: Travel to the park swung sharply upward during the latter part of the month. With the addition of three ranger-naturalists to the Naturalist force, a much expanded interpretive program was presented. Royal Palm Station was manned daily and a schedule of three nature walks and one afternoon talk was begin on December 22, 1956. The first night prowl was held on December 26.

Mosquitoes continued to present a real problem to evening interpretation at Everglades City. The Friday and Saturday campfire programs have been cancelled until the mosquito problem abates.

The Ranger-Aid Training Program has been completed and the Girl Scouts are now meeting the visitors and dispersing information on the features of the Park.

Total interpretive contacts for the month were 62,107.

Research and Observation: Salinity tests of water samples now being collected regularly at 11 localities in the park revealed data of considerable interest showing a dry season shift to more saline conditions in bodies of water near the coast.

Observations: The 7th annual Coot Bay Christmas Bird Count was held Sunday, December 30, 1956, with 33 observers afield from dawn to dusk. Coverage of the area by the 11 parties of observers was more thorough than in most past counts and the count was the most successful yet held in the region with observers from the University of Miami, the National Audubon Society and National Park Service cooperating.

A list of 146 species (7 more than the highest previous total) was recorded by the combined group, and a total count of about 40,000 individuals. Rarities recorded included: 5 flamingos in Lake Ingraham, hooded merganser in Bear Lake, 5 short-tailed hawks, 10 long-billed curlews, roseate tern (second park record), Eastern Kingbird (first park winter record), scissor-tailed flycatcher (third park record), 10 yellow-throated vireos (unusual in winter), 2 worm-eating warblers (second winter record), yellow warbler, 2 Baltimore orioles, and 2 Lincoln's sparrows (first definite park record). In addition, preliminary scouting of the area recorded two species, water pipit and vesper sparrow, missed on the count day; both were second records for the park.

Design and Construction

Plans, Maps and Surveys: Mr. J. L. Obenschain of BPR District Office in Gatlinburg made inspection of park road construction December 10, 11, and 12, and opened bids on December 13 for park road sections 1A7, 3A1, 11A1, and 11B1.

Mr. Dean Stout of EODC made inspection of park road construction December 11 and 12 and was present at opening of bids for section 1A7 of the park road.

New Construction:

Water Distribution System, Flamingo: Work 65% complete.
Steel Water Storage Tank, Flamingo: Approximately 30% complete.
Concessioner Wing, Public Service Building, Flamingo: Approximately 22% complete.
Marine Service Building, Flamingo: Approximately 99% complete.
Service Station, Flamingo: Approximately 97% complete.
Power House, Flamingo: Approximately 20% complete.
Power System, Flamingo: Approximately 38% complete.

Park Road Projects: 1A2-6A1, Flamingo to West Lake - 83% complete.
1A5, West Lake to Nine Mile Bend - 97% complete.
1A6, Nine Mile Bend to Concrete Bridge - 92% complete.
1A7, Station 150/00 to Joree Hammock - Bids opened December 13.
1A4, 4A1, 5A1, 50A1, East Park Boundary Station 150/ 00, Parachute Key and Paradise Key Roads - 47% complete.
1A8, Concrete Bridge to Joree Hammock and Mahogany Hammock Roads - 11% complete.
1A3, Flamingo Bridge - Work not started.

Daniel B. Beard

Daniel B. Beard
Superintendent

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

Area EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

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[X] BUILDINGS AND UTILITIES [ ] NPS ROADS AND TRAILS [ ] BPR ROADS AND TRAILS

REPORT FOR (Month and year) December, 1956

F. Y. PROGRAM 1	ACCOUNT NUMBER LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND PROJECT TITLE 2	PCP NO. 3	DRAWING NO 4	CONSTRUCTION: AMOUNT ALLOTTED AND DATES 5	CONTRACT (C) OR DL 6	ESTIMATED DATE STARTING / COMPLETION 7	% COMPLETE 8	REMARKS AND CONSTRUCTION AGENCY: (D & C), (R), OR (A) 9
1955	No. 333.5 Waterway, Shark to Broad River	M-6-2		$14,025 8/17/54	C		0	Not started
1955	No. 333.6 Landscape Development, Flamingo	M-52-1	3031	19,040 8/18/54	DL	6/1/55 6/30/60	30	A - Same as preceeding month
1956	No. 332.1 Water System, Flamingo	U-30	3012	59,500 7/20/55	C 2/15/57	11/6/56	65	D & C
1955	No. 332.5 Addition to FM Radio System			44,965 8/18/54	C& DL	9/1/54 6/30/58	70	A - Same as preceeding month
1954	No. 332.10 Test Wells, Concrete Bridge	U-19-1	2095	2,960 5/6/54	C	7/21/54 6/30/57	98	A - Same as preceeding month
1955	No. 332.11 Power System , Flamingo	U-28-1		6,035 8/18/54			38	A
1956	No. 331.7 Flamingo Area Development: Visitors Center, On-the-Job Qtrs. and 2 comfort stations	B-57-2 B-61-2 B-68	3037	251,818 No allotment as yet.	C		0	Contractor moving in. Not started.

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

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[illegible]	No. [illegible] Waterway, Shock to Broad Street	[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]	Not started
[illegible]	No. [illegible] Lambertsville Development, Flemings	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	A - Shown as [illegible]
[illegible]	No. [illegible] Elder Spring, Flemings	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	A & C
[illegible]	No. [illegible] Addition to [illegible] Spring			[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	A - Shown as [illegible]
[illegible]	No. [illegible] Dust Valley, [illegible] Bridge	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	A - Shown as [illegible]
[illegible]	No. [illegible] Power System, Flemings	[illegible]		[illegible]			[illegible]	[illegible]	A
[illegible]	No. [illegible] Flemings Area Development: Flemings Center, [illegible] and 2 [illegible] stations	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

Area EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

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REPORT FOR (*Month and year*) December 1956

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1956	No. 523.1 Parking Area Extension, Flamingo	R-35-1	2129-G	$65,600 8/3/55			0	Not started
1956	No. 523.2 Anhinga Trail	R-24-1	2024-G	18,000 8/3/55			0	Not started
1956	No. 523.4 Utility Road & Court, Pine Island	R-10-2	2116-A	3,040 8/3/55	C& DL	9/1/55 6/30/57	95	A - Same as preceeding month
1956	No. 523.5 Nature Trails, Paradise Key	R-23		3,040 8/3/55	DL	9/1/55 6/30/57	85	A - Same as preceeding month

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

Area EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

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REPORT FOR (*Month and year*) December 1956

F. Y. PROGRAM 1	ACCOUNT NUMBER LOCATION WITHIN AREA, AND PROJECT TITLE 2	PCP NO. 3	DRAWING NO 4	CONSTRUCTION: AMOUNT ALLOTTED AND DATES 5	CONTRACT (C) OR DL 6	ESTIMATED DATE STARTING / COMPLETION 7	% COMPLETE 8	REMARKS AND CONSTRUCTION AGENCY: (D & C), (R), OR (A) 9
	Construction by Everglades Park Co. (Concessioner)							
	Marine Service Building, Flamingo		8052	$35,000	C	1-15-56 12-31-56	99	
	Service Station, Flamingo		8053	19,000	C	1-15-56 12-31-56	97	
	Visitors Center (Concessioner's portion), Flamingo		8051	160,000	C	8-6-56 4-1-56	22	
	Power House, Flamingo		8055-A	70,000	C	1-15-56 3-31-56	20	

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

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1956	No. 521.2 1A2-6A1 - Park Road - West Lake to Flamingo Development - Roads	R-14-4		$511,796	C	10/7/55 2/15/57	83	D & C - Same as preceeding month
1957	No. 521.7 1A3 - Bridge over Flamingo Canal	R-14-4		145,082.50 11/5/56	C		0	Contract awarded. Not started D & C
1957	No. 521.5 1A4,4A1,5A1,50A1 - Park Road, E. Park Boundary to Sta. 150/00 Paradise Key, Royal Palm bypass Rd. Rd. to Ingraham Hwy. & Pine Island service road	R-7-4		328,460 8/13/56	C	8/30/56 3/1/57	47	D & C (General Note: BPR does not have drawing numbers. Drawings are referre to by Project number.)
1956	No. 521.3 1A5 - Park Rd. - Sta. 1590/00 to West Lake	R-14-4		451,110 11/7/55	C	1/13/56 3/1/57	97	D & C
1956	No. 521.4 1A6- Park Rd. - Concrete Bridge to Sta. 1590/00	R-14-4		459,900 2/15/56	C	3/16/56 4/1/57	92	D & C
1958	No. 1A7 - Park Rd. - Sta. 150/00 to Joree Hammock Rd., Joree Hammock & Road to Joree Hammock	R-14-4			C		0	Contract awarded. Not started
1957	No. 521.6 1A8 - Park Rd. - Joree Hammock Rd. to Concrete Bridge, Mahogany Hammock Rd. & Rd. to Mahogany Hmk.	R-14-4		558,463	C	7/17/56 7/1/57	11	D & C

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

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